

MICHAEL RANDALL BARNES

Curriculum Vitae – October 2025

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RESEARCH AREAS

Specialization: Ethics of Emerging Technology (esp. Social Media Ethics & AI Ethics),
Philosophy of Language (esp. Speech Act Theory), Social & Political Philosophy

Competence: Ethics, Applied Ethics, Social Epistemology, Feminist Philosophy, Philosophy of Education

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

University of Oslo, Associate Professor, 2025 – present
Department of Philosophy, Classics,
History of Art and Ideas

University of Notre Dame, Assistant Research Professor, 2024 – 2025
ND-IBM Technology Ethics Lab,
Institute for Ethics and the Common Good

Australian National University, Research Fellow, 2022 – 2024
Humanising Machine Intelligence Project,
Machine Intelligence Normative Theory (MINT) Lab

University of Western Ontario, Postdoctoral Associate, 2021 – 2022
Rotman Institute of Philosophy

University of Oklahoma, Postdoctoral Fellow, 2020 – 2021
Institute for the Study of Human Flourishing

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Philosophy, Georgetown University, 2019
Dissertation: “Subordinating Speech and the Construction of Social Hierarchies”
Committee: Quill R. Kukla (chair), Alisa Carse, Madison Powers & Lynne Tirrell (external)

B.Ed. Intermediate/Senior Education, OISE, University of Toronto, 2012

M.A. Philosophy, Carleton University, 2011
M.A. Thesis: “Exploitation in Developing Countries: Fairness in International Trade and Labour”
Advisors: Jay Drydyk & Vida Panitch

B.A., (Honours), double major in Philosophy and Professional Writing, York University, 2009

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

2025. “Complex Harms in Online Speech: The Limits of the Illocutionary.” In *Conversations Online: Explorations in Philosophy of Language*, edited by P. J. Connolly, Sanford C. Goldberg, and Jennifer M. Saul, 239–260. Oxford University Press.
2023. “Who Do You Speak For? And How?: Online Abuse as Collective Subordinating Speech Acts.” *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy* 25 (2): 251–281.
2023. “Presupposition and Propaganda: A Socially Extended Analysis.” In *Sbisà on Speech as Action*, edited by Laura Caponetto and Paolo Labinaz, 275–298. Palgrave Macmillan.
2022. “Online Extremism, AI, and Human Content Moderation.” *Feminist Philosophy Quarterly* 8 (3/4), article 6.
2022. “Hate Speech,” with Luvell Anderson. In the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, edited by Edward N. Zalta.
2021. “Positive Propaganda and the Pragmatics of Protest.” In *The Movement for Black Lives: Philosophical Perspectives*, edited by Michael Cholbi, Brandon Hogan, Alex Madva, and Benjamin Yost, 139–159. Oxford University Press.
2016. “Speaking with (Subordinating) Authority.” *Social Theory & Practice* 42 (2): 240–257.
2013. “Exploitation as a Path to Development: Sweatshop Labour, Micro-Unfairness, and the Non-Worseness Claim.” *Ethics and Economics* 10 (2): 26–43. [Reprinted in the *Journal of the Canadian Society for the Study of Practical Ethics (CSSPE) Volume 1: Practical Ethics – Perspectives and Issues*, 158–179. 2017.]

UNDER REVIEW AND IN PREPARATION

- “Organized Labour Action as AI Governance,” with Emily Cichocki, Nathalie Diberardino and Luke Stark. *Under review*.
- “Extreme Amodal Face Detection,” with Changlin Song, Yonzhung Hou, Dylan Campbell, and Rahul Shome. *Under review*.
- “Free Speech, Hate, and Harm,” with Chris Bousquet. In preparation for *An Introduction to the Philosophy of Free Speech* (Routledge, edited by Étienne Brown, and J.P. Messina and Mark Satta).
- “Mapping the Ethical Landscape of AI-Assisted Sex Work,” with Mercedes Corredor. In preparation for *Philosophy Compass*.

REFEREED PRESENTATIONS (selected)

Working for the Machine

- PPE Society 9th Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA, November 13–16, 2025
- Machine Wisdom Workshop 2, at the University of Pittsburgh, May 12–14, 2022
- North American Society for Social Philosophy (NASSP) International Social Philosophy Conference, July 14–16, 2022, Aston, PA.

Mapping the Ethical Landscape of AI-Assisted Sex Work (with Mercedes Corredor)

- Canadian Philosophical Association (CPA) Annual Meeting, Toronto, ON, June 1–4, 2025

Responsibility for Recommendations

- PhilMod's First International Conference on the Philosophy of Content Moderation, Asilomar, CA, April 12–14, 2025

Interrogating Authenticity as a Norm for Online Speech (with Megan Hyska)

- Penn-Georgetown Digital Ethics Workshop, Philadelphia, PA, March 29–30, 2024.
- Oxford-Berlin Early Career Colloquium on the Normative Philosophy of Computing, Berlin, December 8–9 2023.

Speech Acts and Social Media: Algorithms, Amplifiers, and Affordances

- Australasian Association of Philosophy (AAP) 2023 Meeting, July, Melbourne.
- Philosophy of Online Communications Workshop, Australian National University, 21 May 2023.

Theories of Propaganda & New Technology: Applications & Interventions (Megan Hyska)

- A “Translation Tutorial” given at ACM Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAcT) 2023, Chicago.

The Promise and Peril of Bringing Speech Act Theory Online

- American Philosophical Association (APA) Central division meeting, February 2022, Chicago IL
- The Social, Moral and Political Impact of Virtual Technology Workshop, hosted by the Universidad Diego Portales, Santiago, Chile, January 22–23, 2021. (*Via Zoom*)

Untangling the Complex Relationship Between Conspiracy Theories & Propaganda

- The Philosophy of Conspiracy Theories, University College Dublin, July 1–2, 2021. (*Online*)

Online Extremism, AI, and (Human) Content Moderation

- Feminism, Social Justice, and AI workshop, July 26–28, 2021. (*Online*)
- North American Society for Social Philosophy (NASSP) International Social Philosophy Conference, July 16–18, 2021, Aston, PA. (*Online—pre-recorded presentation*)

Collective Authority in Hate Speech

- American Philosophical Association (APA) Pacific division meeting, April 2021. (*Online*)

REFEREED PRESENTATIONS (selected) (continued)

Who Do You Speak For? And How?: Anonymity and Identity in Online Abuse

- American Philosophical Association (APA) Eastern meeting, January 2020, Philadelphia, PA.
- North American Society for Social Philosophy (NASSP) International Social Philosophy Conference, July 19–21, 2018, Rochester, MI.
- Canadian Philosophical Association (CPA) annual conference, June 4–7, 2018, Montréal, QC

Nonideal Theory, Action-Guidance, and the Evaluation of Moral Failures

- MANCEPT Workshops, September 11–13, 2017, Manchester, UK.

Animal Rights Activism and Other Liberatory Movements (co-authored with Hailey Huget)

- Canadian Society for Women in Philosophy (CSWIP) Conference, September 28–30, 2018, Cape Breton, NS.
- North American Society for Social Philosophy (NASSP) International Social Philosophy Conference, 2017, Chicago, IL.

The Pragmatics of Protest as ‘Positive Propaganda’

- 18th Annual Columbia-NYU Philosophy Graduate Conference, March 24, 2018, New York, NY.
- American Philosophical Association (APA) Central division meeting, February 21–24, 2018, Chicago, IL.
- Canadian Philosophical Association (CPA) annual conference, May 28–31, 2017, Toronto, ON.

Non-Human Animal Exploitation (co-authored with Hailey Huget)

- North American Society for Social Philosophy (NASSP) International Social Philosophy Conference, July 13–15, 2017, Chicago, IL.
- American Society for Bioethics and Humanities (ASBH), October 6–9, 2016, Washington, DC.

Confronting the Authority Problem for Subordinating Speech

- Dominating Speech Workshop, University of Connecticut, Nov. 21–23, 2014, Hartford, CN.
- Canadian Society for the Study of Practical Ethics (CSSPE) Annual Meeting, May 24–26, 2014, St. Catharines, ON.

Neurodiversity and the Bounds of the Moral Community (co-authored with Hailey Huget)

- American Society for Bioethics and Humanities (ASBH) annual meeting, October 22–25, 2015, Houston, TX.

Exploitation as a Path to Development

- International Development Ethics Association (IDEA) Conference, June 2011, Bryn Mawr, PA.
- Canadian Society for the Study of Practical Ethics (CSSPE) Annual Meeting, May 31–June 2, 2011, Fredericton, NB.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS (selected)

Mapping the Ethical Landscape of AI-Assisted Sex Work (with Mercedes Corredor)

- Midwest Early-Career Social Philosophy of Technology (MECSPoT) 2025 Workshop, University of Notre Dame, IN, August 4–6 2025.

Responsibility for Recommendations

- Social Media and Communication: Philosophical Perspectives Workshop, Barnard College, January 24–25, 2025
- University of Toronto, Centre for Ethics, September 30, 2024
- Macquarie University, Philosophy Department Seminar Series, August 6, 2024
- Australian National University, Philosophy Department Seminar Series, November 9, 2023

Bing's Little Lies: Deception in Generative AI

- At the *ChatLLM23* conference, University of Sydney, April 29, 2023

Contemporary Propaganda Practices

- Part of the *Recent Work in Propaganda* Invited Session, at the APA Pacific meeting, April 8, 2023.

Reflections on 'Disagreement in the Digital Age'

- At the *HCSPiP Conference in Pedagogical Innovation*, at Hamilton College, July 2022

The Social Accommodation of Hate Speech

- At *The Changing Norms of Democratic Rhetoric: Philosophical and Political Perspectives* workshop, hosted by the University of Genoa, June 2022

Whose Tweets? Our Tweets!: The Challenges of Online Protest

- Part of the *Ethics of Protest* series at the Centre for Ethics, University of Toronto, April 29, 2022

Collective Authority in Hate Speech

- At William Paterson University. Feb. 2, 2021 (*Via Zoom*)

Online Abuse and Collective Speech Acts

- Part of the *Slurs, Name-calling, and Exclusionary Speech* Workshop at Technische Universität Berlin, March 9–13, 2020
- As part of the *Speech, Identity, and Privacy in the Age of Social Media* Invited Session, at the American Philosophical Association (APA) Eastern division meeting, January 2018 (*canceled due to weather*)

The Diversity of Strategies for Diversifying Syllabi

- Part of the *Ethics of Pedagogy* series at the Centre for Ethics, University of Toronto. Jan 30, 2020

COMMENTS

- On Kelly Weirich’s “Private Dogwhistles and Relinquishing the Benefit of the Doubt,” at the American Philosophical Association (APA) Pacific division meeting, April 2025.
- On Ryan Jenkins’s “Shame is the Name of the Game: A Value-Sensitive Design Approach to Combating Uncivil Speech Online,” at the *Dartmouth Workshop on Ethics and Information Technology*, Dartmouth College, August 2022.
- On Nir Eyal and Anders Herlitz’s “Inputs and Outputs in Distributive Ethics,” at the American Philosophical Association (APA) Central division meeting, February 2020.
- On Gretchen Ellefson’s “The Cooperative Principle Revisited,” at the *Vancouver Summer Philosophy Conference* (VSPC), August 2019.
- On Eric Bayruns Garcia’s “Expression-Style Exclusion,” at the American Philosophical Association (APA) Eastern division meeting, January 2019.
- On Charles Lassiter’s “Perceived Rational Authority, Conversational Implicature, and the Epistemology of Implicit Bias” at the American Philosophical Association (APA) Eastern division meeting, January 2017.
- On Catherine Klausen & David Devidi’s “No Mere Difference,” at the Canadian Philosophical Association (CPA) annual conference, May 2016.

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

- Kevin Kumashiro, Department of Education, University of Illinois, Chicago, May 2012.
- Vida Panitch, Department of Philosophy, Carleton University, Summer 2011.

TEACHING CERTIFICATES

- Georgetown University, Center for New Designs in Learning & Scholarship, Apprenticeship in Teaching, 2019
- Ontario College of Teachers, Certificate of Qualification, Intermediate & Senior divisions, 2012

TEACHING & SUPERVISION

Australian National University:

Machine Intelligence and Normative Theory (Semester 1 2023 – co-taught seminar course)
Philosophy, AI, and Society (Semester 1 2024 – co-taught large lower-level course)

PhD supervision (panel member) for Emily Leijer, on Speech Acts of Predictions
Honours Thesis Supervision (temporary) for Aleksander Hammo, on Online Manipulation
Advanced Studies Course Supervision for Veve Fry, on Human Rights and AI governance

TEACHING & SUPERVISION (continued)

Hamilton College Summer Program in Philosophy (HCSPiP 2022):

Disagreement in the Digital Age: Philosophical Reflection About/With New Technology

University of Western Ontario:

Philosophy and AI (Spring 2022 – blended online/in-person course)

Philosophy and AI (Winter 2022 – blended online/in-person course)

Ethical & Societal Implications of A.I. (Winter 2022 – co-taught graduate course)

AI & Society: Ethical and Legal Challenges (Winter 2022 – graduate course for CS students)

Toronto Metropolitan University:

Philosophy and Death (Spring 2020)

University of Toronto:

Seminar in Applied Ethics: Ethics of Emerging Technologies (Spring 2020)

Georgetown University:

Introduction to Ethics (Summer 2019)

Introduction to Philosophy (Summer 2018)

Introduction to Ethics (Summer 2017)

Philosophy of Education (Spring 2017)

Ethics of Speech (Fall 2016)

Oppression & Justice (Spring 2016)

Bioethics (Fall 2015)

DEPARTMENTAL AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Referee for: *Public Affairs Quarterly*; *Ethnicities*; *Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal*; *Journal of Business Ethics*; *Ethics and Information Technology*; *Phenomenology and Mind*; *Erkenntnis*; *Moral Philosophy and Politics*; *Journal of Applied Philosophy*; *Ethical Theory & Moral Practice*; *Social Epistemology*; *Philosophia*; *Journal of Ethics*; *Philosophical Studies*; *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*; *Philosopher's Imprint*; *Journal of Social Philosophy*; *Feminist Philosophy Quarterly*; *Oxford Intersections*; *Ergo*.
- Program Committee for ACM FAccT 2025, AIES 2025.
- Reviewer for Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) Agora project.
- Voting member, non-scientist, on the Biomedical and Pediatric Oncology Committee A, Institutional Review Board (IRB), Georgetown University Medical Center, 2016–2018.
- Coordinator of the Georgetown Philosophy Pedagogy Group, 2016–2017.
- Diversifying Syllabi Group, contributing member, <http://diversifyingsyllabi.weebly.com>.
- Convener, AI Ethics Reading Group, Western University, 2021–2022
- Organizer of the [*Philosophy of Online Communication*](#) Workshop, ANU, May 2023.
- Convener, ANU Philosophy Department Seminar Series, 2024.
- Organizer of [*Midwest Early-Career Social Philosophy of Technology*](#) (MECSPoT2025) Workshop, University of Notre Dame, August 2025.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND OTHER AWARDS

From Australian National University:

Humanising Machine Intelligence Computing for Social Good Seed Research Grant, for “Privacy-Preserving Perception for Robotics,” December 2023.
RSSH Early Career Researcher Travel Funding Grant, 2023,
ANU Early Career Researcher International Travel Grant, 2023

From Georgetown University:

Graduate Student Travel Award, 2017.
Graduate Student Teaching Award Nomination, 2016.
Political and Social Thought Assistantship, 2014–2015.
Engelhard Teaching Fellowship, 2014.

From Carleton University:

Graduate Scholarship, 2009–2010.
Dean of Graduate Studies Academic Excellence Scholarship for Domestic Students, 2009–2011.

From York University:

Undergraduate Entrance Award, 2005.
Faculty of Arts Sessional Academic Achievement List, 2005–2006, 2007–2008, 2008–2009.
Graduated cum laude, Member of Dean's Honour Roll, 2009.

Governmental:

Ontario Graduate Scholarship, 2012 – 2013 (*declined*).

From Conferences:

Graduate Student Travel Stipend, APA Eastern Division Annual Meeting, January 2020.
Graduate Student Travel Stipend, APA Central Division Annual Meeting, February 2018.
The Canadian Society for the Study of Practical Ethics Student Essay Prize, 2014.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

- Panelist for “Navigating the Ethics of AI in Public Governance,” at the 2023 Clayton-Utz Government In-House Counsel Day, Canberra, March 2, 2023
- Contributor to a submission to the Select Committee on adopting Artificial Intelligence (AI) of the Australian Senate, on behalf of the ANU’s Integrated Artificial Intelligence Network
- Podcast interviews: *Cyborg Goddess (Continuing the Conversation)* - Feminist Tech Studies Podcast with Jennifer Jill Fellows (Sept 2024); *The World and Robots Podcast* – with Bryn Hexemer (December 2023).

LANGUAGES

English
Intermediate French
Beginner Norwegian

REFERENCES

1. Seth Lazar, D.Phil.

Professor, School of Philosophy
Australian National University
seth.lazar@anu.edu.au

2. Quill R. Kukla, PhD., MA

Professor of Philosophy &
Senior Research Scholar in the Kennedy
Institute of Ethics
Georgetown University
Quill.Kukla@georgetown.edu

3. Lynne Tirrell, PhD.

Professor of Philosophy
University of Connecticut
lynne.tirrell@uconn.edu

4. Luvell Anderson, PhD.

Associate Professor of Philosophy
Syracuse University
lander04@syr.edu

5. Luke Stark, PhD.

Assistant Professor,
Faculty of Information and Media Studies
Western University
cstark23@uwo.ca

6. Susan J. Brison, PhD.

Professor of Philosophy
Dartmouth College
Susan.J.Brison@dartmouth.edu

7. Alisa Carse, PhD.

Associate Professor of Philosophy
Georgetown University
carsea@georgetown.edu

8. Madison Powers, JD, D.Phil.

Professor Emeritus of Philosophy &
Senior Research Scholar in the Kennedy
Institute of Ethics
Georgetown University
powersm@georgetown.edu

9. Mark C. Murphy, PhD.

(teaching reference)
Professor & McDevitt Chair of Religious
Philosophy
Georgetown University
Mark.Murphy@georgetown.edu