

MICHAEL RANDALL BARNES

Curriculum Vitae – Sept. 2023

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RESEARCH AREAS

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

Competence: Ethics, Applied Ethics (esp. Bioethics & Business Ethics), Social Epistemology, Feminist Philosophy, Philosophy of Education

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Australian National University,
Humanising Machine Intelligence project

Research Fellow, 2022 – *present*

Rotman Institute of Philosophy,
University of Western Ontario

Postdoctoral Associate, 2021 – 2022

Institute for the Study of Human Flourishing,
University of Oklahoma

Postdoctoral Fellow, 2020 – 2021

OTHER RELEVANT EMPLOYMENT

Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal,
Georgetown University

Managing Editor, 2017 – 2019
Book Review Editor, 2014 – 2017

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)

M.A. Philosophy, Georgetown University, 2014

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

- Forthcoming. “Complex Harms in Online Speech: Limits of the Illocutionary.” In *Conversations Online*, edited by Patrick Connolly, Jennifer Saul, and Sanford Goldberg, 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.]

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- “Speech Acts and Social Media: Algorithms, Amplifiers, and Affordances”: A paper using speech act theory to clarify the moral responsibility of social media platforms.
- “Interrogating Authenticity as a Norm for Online Speech”: A (co-authored) paper on the legitimacy of platform company content moderation regimes.
- “Bing’s Little Lies: Assertion and Deception in Generative AI”: A paper exploring the speech acts of generative AI models.
- “Working for the Machine”: A paper on the type of exploitation involved in micro-work and content moderation, and their relationship to AI and automation.
- “Solidarity and Structural Injustice: Labor Action as AI/ML Governance”: A (co-authored) paper that makes the case for organized labor as a form of AI governance.
- “Conspiracy Theories & Propaganda Practices”: A paper on the relationship between conspiracy theories and propaganda.
- “Whose Tweets? Our Tweets!: The Challenges of Online Protest”: A paper on the practical and conceptual challenges of protest movements organizing and operating in online spaces.
- *Virtual Speech, Material Harms: Bringing Speech Act Theory Online*: A book project in development.

REFEREED PRESENTATIONS (selected)

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

- Australasian Association of Philosophy (AAP) 2023 Meeting, July, Melbourne.
- The Philosophy of Online Communications Workshop, ANU, May 2023.

Theories of Propaganda and New Technology: Applications and Interventions

- A “Translation Tutorial” given at *ACM FAccT* 2023, Chicago (with Megan Hyska).

Working for the Machine

- 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.

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*)

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

- American Philosophical Association (APA) Eastern division 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

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.

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

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

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, held at the University of Connecticut, November 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

Bing’s Little Lies: Deception in Generative AI

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

Contemporary Propaganda Practices

- As part of the *Recent Work in Propaganda* Invited Session, at the American Philosophical Association (APA) Pacific meeting, April 8, 2023.

“Navigating the Ethics of AI in Public Governance” (Panelist)

- At the 2023 Clayton-Utz Government In-House Counsel Day, Canberra, March 2, 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

- As 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

- As part of the *Slurs, Name-calling, and Exclusionary Speech* Workshop at Technische Universität Berlin, March 9–13, 2020.

The Diversity of Strategies for Diversifying Syllabi

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

Who Do You Speak For? And How? Identities & Online Abuse

- 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*).

COMMENTS

- 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.
- On Chris Howard’s “Mental Agency Doesn’t Matter: A Defense of Metaethics,” at the Georgetown University Philosophy Conference, April 2013

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

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

COURSEWORK TEACHING

Australian National University:

Machine Intelligence and Normative Theory (Semester 1 2023 – co-taught seminar)
Honours Thesis Supervisor (temporary) for Aleks Hammo, on Online Manipulation
Advanced Studies Course Supervisor for Veve Fry, on Human Rights and AI governance

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)

* Included as part of Georgetown's *Engaging Diversity* program

^ Cross-listed in the *Education, Inquiry and Justice* minor at Georgetown

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

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*;
- Voting member, non-scientist, on the Biomedical and Pediatric Oncology Committee A, Institutional Review Board (IRB), Georgetown University Medical Center, 2016–2018.
- Volunteer for the Georgetown chapter of Minorities And Philosophy (MAP).
- 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 Communications* Workshop, ANU, May 2023.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND OTHER AWARDS

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.

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.

LANGUAGES

English, and intermediate French

CITIZENSHIP

Canadian

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
rk75@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