

Jonathon VandenHombergh, PhD

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AOS Bioethics, philosophy of mind

AOC Ethics, logic, metaphysics

Education PhD, Philosophy
University of Wisconsin-Madison 2016-24

Dissertation: [*The One is the Type of the Many*](#)
(defended 2024)
Committee: Farid Masrour (chair), Alan Sidelle,
Bruno Whittle

MA, Philosophy
University of Houston 2014-16

BS, Psychology and Philosophy, *magna cum laude*
Aquinas College 2009-13

Employment Visiting Scholar
Program for Neuroethics and Clinical Consciousness
John J. Lynch, MD Center for Ethics
MedStar Washington Hospital Center 2026-27

Postdoctoral Fellow
Clinical Center Department of Bioethics
National Institutes of Health 2024-26

Adjunct Professor of Philosophy
Lone Star Community College 2018-20

Lecturer
Department of Philosophy
University of Wisconsin-Madison 2017-24

Publications "The Exploitation Argument against Artificial
Companionship"
AI and Ethics Forthcoming

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| “Assisted Dying in Unjust Conditions” (w/ Scott Kim) <i>Journal of Bioethical Inquiry</i> | Forthcoming |
| “A Reply to Reed on my ‘Expressivist Concerns for Assisted Dying on Request’” <i>Journal of Medical Ethics</i> ¹ | 2026 |
| “Expressivist Concerns for Assisted Dying on Request” <i>Journal of Medical Ethics</i> | 2025 |
| “Hallucination as Perceptual Synecdoche” <i>Australasian Journal of Philosophy</i> | 2025 |
| “Consciousness, Conceivability, and Intrinsic Reduction” <i>Erkenntnis</i> , 85(5): 1129-51. ² | 2020 |
| “Inconceivable Physicalism” <i>Analysis</i> , 77(1): 116-25. | 2017 |

In Progress

A book chapter on the use of AI/algorithms for surrogate decision-making (w/ Annette Rid and Dave Wendler; bioethics)

A paper on how AI/algorithms for surrogate decision-making are limited by considerations of sovereignty (w/ Dave Wendler; bioethics)

A paper on metaphysical arbitrariness--what it is and why it sometimes warrants the rejection of a hypothesis (metaphysics)

A paper on the use of types in solving the problem of the many (metaphysics)

A paper on the morality of using large language models for clinical ethics consultation (bioethics)

A paper on the role of vagueness in conceivability arguments against physicalism (philosophy of mind)

¹ This is a response to Philip Reed’s paper, [“Autonomy-centred assisted death laws still avoid expressivism,”](#) forthcoming in the same journal. Reed’s paper is itself a response to my “Expressivist concerns for assisted dying on request” (see above).

² A critical discussion of this article, written by Peter Marton, was also published in *Erkenntnis*: [“Conceivability, Kripkean Identity, and S5: A Reply to Jonathon VandenHomergh,”](#) 2023, 90(3): 1265-74.

A paper on nihilistic answers to the question of why there is something rather than nothing (metaphysics)

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| Professional Presentations | “The Inner Part of Chaotic Hallucination” 114 th Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology 73 rd New Mexico Texas Philosophical Society* ³ | 2023 2023 |
| | “A Structuralist Answer to the Ultimate Question” 11 th European Congress of Analytic Philosophy* | 2023 |
| | “Conceptual Sieves” 69 th New Mexico Texas Philosophical Society Third International Conference on Philosophy of Mind 91 st Aristotelian Society and Mind Association* The Long Island Philosophical Society* | 2018 2017 2017 2017 |
| | “Continuous Qualia” 9 th European Congress of Analytic Philosophy* | 2017 |
| | “Predictive Coding and Three-Dimensional Reductivism” 20 th Assoc. for the Scientific Study of Consciousness* | 2016 |
| | “Phenomenal Concepts and the Disjunction Problem” 108 th Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology* | 2016 |
| | “The Logic of Quantified Two-Dimensional Conceivability Arguments” Masterclass Conference with David Chalmers | 2015 |
| | Honors | Philosophy Department Graduate Fellowship University of Wisconsin-Madison |
| | Marcus G and Blanche L Singer Fellowship University of Wisconsin-Madison | 2022 |
| | Philosophy Department Summer Fellowship University of Wisconsin-Madison | 2021 |
| | College of Letters and Science Teaching Fellow Nominee (one of two department-wide) University of Wisconsin-Madison | 2021 |

³ The “ * ” signifies that the paper/proposal/abstract was accepted for presentation, but I was unable to attend the conference due to funding constraints.

**Teaching
Full
Responsibility**

Introduction to Philosophy
Lone Star Community College and UW-Madison 11 times

Introduction to basic philosophical issues (the existence of God, the limits of knowledge, etc.) and methods (conceptual analysis, deductive arguments, etc.)

Contemporary Moral Issues
UW-Madison 6 times

Survey of issues in applied ethics (climate change, AI, etc.) and the moral theories used to address them (utilitarianism, contractualism, etc.)

Introduction to Ethics
Lone Star Community College and UW-Madison

Survey of theories in metaethics (relativism, naturalism, etc.) and normative ethics (Kantianism, virtue ethics, etc.)

Formal Logic
Lone Star Community College

Fundamentals of sentential logic (truth tables, natural deduction, etc.) and basic concepts from advanced logic (quantification, completeness, etc.)

**Teaching
Assistant**

Elementary Logic
UW-Madison, w/ John McKay and Josh Mund 2 times

Discussion sections and grading for sentential and predicate logic

Introduction to Ethics
UW-Madison, w/ Emily Fletcher

Discussion sections and grading for range of topics (feminist ethics, ancient Chinese ethics, etc.).

Introduction to Ethics
University of Houston, w/ Tamler Sommers (grader only)

Introduction to Philosophy
University of Houston, w/ Helen Hattab (grader only)

Introduction to Mind
University of Houston, w/ Josh Weisberg (grader only)

Service

Peer Reviewer for
Analysis, Asian Journal of Philosophy, Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Erkenntnis, Medicine Healthcare and Philosophy, Neuroethics, Philosophia, Philosophical Psychology, Philosophical Studies, Ratio, Theoria

Session Chair (ad hoc)
114th Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology 2023

Session Chair
Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association 2022

Invited Commenter
110th Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology 2018

Fellowship Application Committee
Bioethics Department at NIH 2024-25

Journal Club Organizer
Bioethics Department at NIH 2024-26

T-Shirt Designer/Distributor
Bioethics Department at NIH 2025

Volunteering

Clinical Ethics Shadowing
The John J. Lynch Center for Clinical Ethics
MedStar Washington Hospital Center 2025

Dinner Preparation
Children's Inn at the National Institutes of Health 2025

Interim Hospice 2023-25

English Tutor
The Literacy Network 2023

**Academic
References**

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|---------------|---|
| Farid Masrour | Professor of Philosophy Department of Philosophy University of Wisconsin-Madison 600 N. Park St. Madison, WI 53706 608.263.3700 masrour@wisc.edu |
| Alan Sidelle | Professor of Philosophy, emeritus Department of Philosophy University of Wisconsin-Madison 600 N. Park St. Madison, WI 53706 608.263.3700 asidelle@wisc.edu |
| Bruno Whittle | Associate Professor of Philosophy Department of Philosophy University of Wisconsin-Madison 600 N. Park St. Madison, WI 53706 608.263.3700 bwhittle@wisc.edu |

**Clinical
Bioethics
References**

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|-----------------|--|
| Christine Grady | Former Chief Department of Bioethics Clinical Center, National Institutes of Health 10 Center Dr. Bethesda, MD 20814 christine.grady07@gmail.com |
| David Wendler | Acting Chief Department of Bioethics Clinical Center, National Institutes of Health 10 Center Dr. Bethesda, MD 20814 301.435.8726 dwendler@nih.gov |
| Scott Kim | Senior Investigator Department of Bioethics Clinical Center, National Institutes of Health 10 Center Dr. Bethesda, MD 20814 |

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Robert Steel Staff Scientist
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National Institutes of Health
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**Additional
Teaching
References**

Jesse Steinberg Teaching Faculty, Philosophy
Department of Philosophy
University of Wisconsin-Madison
600 N. Park St.
Madison, WI 53706
608.263.3700
jesse.steinberg@wisc.edu

Molly Lasco Professor and Chair
English and Developmental English
Lone Star College-System Office
5000 Research Forest Drive
The Woodlands, TX 77381
936.271.6334
Mary.Lasco@Lonestar.edu

**Graduate
Coursework**

Philosophy of Mind/Cognitive Science
Externalism (Farid Masrouf)
Consciousness (Josh Weisberg)
Mental Representation (Cameron Buckner)
Philosophy of Mind, 80's and 90's (Larry Shapiro)
Belief (Jesse Steinberg)
Philosophy of Cognitive Science (Cameron Buckner)

Bioethics

Ethical and Regulatory Aspects of Clinical Research
(Holly Taylor, w/ speakers Christine Grady, Yukiko Asada, Scott Kim, Robert Steel, and David Wendler)
Clinical Ethics Fellowship First Year Seminar
(Robert Steel, w/ speakers David DeGrazia, Sean Aas, David Wasserman, Carla Saenz, Danielle Bromwich, Benjamin Krohmal, Joseph Millum, Marion Danis, Alex John London, and Daniel Moseley)

Joint Bioethics Colloquium

(David Wasserman and Sean Aas, w/ speakers
Christine Grady, Dov Fox, Jason Eberl, and Udo
Schuklenk)

Metaphysics

Philosophy of Religion (Justin Coates)

Free Will (Martha Gibson)

Meta-Ethical Constructivism and Constitutivism
(Mike Titelbaum)

Contemporary Big Pictures in Metaphysics (Alan Sidelle)

Grounding (Bruno Whittle; audited)

Philosophy of Language and Logic

Modal Logic (James Garson)

Philosophy of Mathematics (James Garson)

Counterfactuals (John Mackay)

Logic and Ontology (James Garson)

History of Philosophy

Early Analytic (Martha Gibson)

Aristotle's Scientific Method and Metaphysics
(Cynthia Freeland)

Epistemology from Hume to Quine (Bredo Johnsen)

Epistemology

Fine-Tuning (Elliott Sober)

Philosophy of Social Science (Josh Weisberg)

Philosophy of Science (Josh Weisberg)

Epistemology of Logic (Mike Titelbaum; audited)

**Dissertation
Abstract**

The problem of the many is a paradox, on which many candidates are individually and equally well-suited to uniquely constituting an object. In this dissertation, I defend a novel solution to the problem of the many: typism. According to typism, the object in question is constituted by the type to which the many candidates belong as tokens, rather than any of the tokens themselves. Just as it is not paradoxical to claim that “rose” is the longest word in “a rose is a rose is a rose”—despite the presence of three longest words therein—it is not paradoxical to claim that the candidate constitutes an object—despite the presence of many candidate constituters. After the introduction, I present in chapter 1 a synoptic description and defense of typism, in the process comparing it with alternative solutions. The remainder of the dissertation elaborates on key issues from this first chapter, its centerpiece. Chapter 2 provides an

account of distinctively metaphysical arbitrariness and explains why such arbitrariness occasionally—as in the problem of the many—warrants rejection. Chapter 3 clarifies the resemblance between types and their tokens which (among other things) underlies the defense of typism, specifically by appeal to the generic features of pluralities of said tokens. Chapter 4 addresses an explanatory challenge to typism—how can abstract types constitute non-abstract objects?—by outlining a model on which constitution is, in this case, a form of projection (e.g., as occurs in augmented reality technology). Finally, I conclude the dissertation by pictorially summarizing the typist’s response to the problem of the many and pointing toward future work on the relationship between perception and metaphysical determinacy.