

# Tyler K. Fagan | Curriculum Vitae

Department of Philosophy, Elmhurst University  
190 Prospect Avenue, Elmhurst, IL 60126  
[tyler.fagan@elmhurst.edu](mailto:tyler.fagan@elmhurst.edu) | 630-617-6475  
[https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Tyler\\_Fagan](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Tyler_Fagan)

## EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Assistant Professor, Elmhurst University, 2023–present  
Lecturer, Elmhurst University, 2017–2023  
Visiting Assistant Professor, Elmhurst University, 2012–2016

## EXPERTISE

**Areas of Specialization:** moral responsibility, philosophy of mind, neuroethics  
**Areas of Competence:** applied ethics, early modern philosophy, ancient philosophy

## EDUCATION

Ph.D., Philosophy, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, 2012.  
M.A., Philosophy, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, 2007.  
B.A., Philosophy & Religion, English, Truman State University (*summa cum laude*), 2004.

## RESEARCH

### Works in Progress

“What Sort of Failure Is Moral Self-Blindness?” Article in preparation.

“Growing As We Give: Service Learning Impacts Across Multiple Courses with an Environmental Theme.” Article in preparation

### Publications

(in press) “Psychiatric Diagnoses and Criminal Responsibility: An Argument for the Relevance of Intellectual Disability,” with Katrina Sifferd (first author). Forthcoming in *Criminal Justice Ethics*.

(2025) “How Much Nuance Is Too Much?” *Philosophy and the Mind Sciences*, 6.  
<https://doi.org/10.33735/phimisci.2025.11776>

(2022) “Neuroscience and the Concept of Culpability,” in S. Della Sala et al. (eds.), *Encyclopedia of Behavioral Neuroscience*. New York: Elsevier.

(2021) “Author’s Reply: Negligence and Normative Import,” with Katrina Sifferd (second author). *Criminal Law and Philosophy* (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11572-021-09602-8>

(2021) “Child Soldiers, Executive Functions, and Culpability,” with Katrina Sifferd and William Hirstein (first author), C. Fournet and A. Matwijkiw (eds.), *Biolaw and International Criminal Law*. Boston/Leiden: Brill/Martinus Nijhoff Publishers.  
[https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004364424\\_013](https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004364424_013)

(2020) “Juvenile Responsibility: Building a Scalar Standard,” with Katrina Sifferd and William Hirstein (first author), in A. Mele (ed.), *Surrounding Self-Control: The Philosophy and Science of Self-Control*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/os0/9780197500941.003.0018>

(2018) *Responsible Brains: Neuroscience, Law, and Human Culpability*, with Katrina Sifferd and William Hirstein. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

(2018) “Pretrial Detention and Moral Agency,” with Katrina Sifferd (second author), in D. Boonin (ed.), *The Palgrave Handbook of Philosophy and Public Policy*. (pp. 11–23). New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

(2017) “Legal Insanity and Executive Function,” with Katrina Sifferd and William Hirstein (third author), in M. White (ed.), *The Insanity Defense: Multidisciplinary Views on Its History, Trends, and Controversies* (pp. 215–242). Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger.

(2016) “Animal Mindreading and the Principle of Conservatism.” *The Southern Journal of Philosophy*, 54 (2), 189–208. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/sjp.12167>

(2016) “Child Soldiers, Executive Functions, and Culpability,” with Katrina Sifferd and William Hirstein (first author). *International Criminal Law Review*, 16 (2), 258–286.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1163/15718123-01602002>

(2013) “All in the Game,” in J. Crosby, D. Bzdak, and S. Vannatta (eds.), *The Wire and Philosophy* (pp. 13–29). Chicago: Open Court Books.

### Invited Talks and Presentations

“How Much Nuance is Too Much? Commentary on Joshua May’s *Neuroethics*”

Annual Meeting of the Alabama Philosophical Society, 2024

“Assessing Responsibility: Psychiatric Diagnoses, Brain Data, and Degrees of Difficulty”

Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, 2024

“Environmental Action and the Problem of Inconsequentialism”

Natural Resources Defense Council / Environmental Defense Fund “Green Team” Public Lecture Series, 2020

“Responsible Brains: Neuroscience, Law, and Human Culpability.”

Rutgers University Institute for Law and Philosophy, 2020 (canceled)

“Climate Change: Realism and Optimism”

Elmhurst University “Inventing Hope” Teach-In, 2020

“Dare to Disagree”

Elmhurst University Teach-In, Student Government Association, 2017  
“Mental Illness, Legal Insanity, and Executive Function.”  
University of Michigan–Flint, Department of Philosophy Lecture Series, 2016  
“The Guilty Brain: Executive Function and Responsibility.”  
Florida State University, Philosophy of Science and Self-Control Conference, 2015  
“Reading Animal Minds: Anthropomorphism and Anthropodenial.”  
Ball State University, Department of Philosophy, 2013  
“Reading Animal Minds: Anthropomorphism and Anthropodenial.”  
Illinois Institute of Technology, Lewis Department of Humanities Colloquium, 2012  
“Animal Mindreading and the Principle of Conservatism.”  
Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association (Main Program), 2012  
Commentator on “Ontological Objections to Cohen’s Relationalism” by Iris Spoor.  
Indiana Philosophical Association Conference, 2012  
“Animal Mindreading and the Principle of Conservatism.”  
Illinois Philosophical Association Conference, 2011  
“Self-ignorance and Self-improvement: Sketching a Reevaluation.”  
Northwest Philosophy Conference, 2010  
Commentator on “2 is Better than 1” by Bryan Miller.  
University of Illinois Graduate Philosophy Conference, 2010  
Commentator on “Deweying Dennett” by Tibor Solymosi.  
University of Illinois Graduate Philosophy Conference, 2007  
“Consciousness, Computability, and Mathematics: Escaping from Gödel and Penrose.”  
Toward a Science of Consciousness Conference, 2004

## **AWARDS, HONORS, AND GRANTS**

2018–19 Nominee, President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching, Elmhurst University.  
2015–16. Templeton Foundation grant awarded: The Philosophy and Science of Self-Control (dir. Alfred Mele), \$55,000 subgrant. Project title: *The Guilty Brain: Self-Control as Executive Function*. With William Hirstein and Katrina Sifferd.  
2008–11. Selected to List of Instructors Ranked ‘Excellent’ by their students, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (Fall 2008, Fall 2009, Spring 2010, Spring 2011).  
2009–10. Distinguished Graduate Student Teaching Award, University of Illinois.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **Elmhurst University**

FYS 100: First-Year Seminar  
HON 107: Problems of Philosophy (Honors)  
HON 304: Ethics (Honors)

PHL 106: Critical Reasoning  
PHL 210: Introduction to Philosophy  
PHL 220: Formal Logic  
PHL 303: Ancient Philosophy  
PHL 304: Modern Philosophy  
PHL 306: Ethics  
PHL 310: Business Ethics  
PHL 312: Environmental Ethics  
PHL 316: Ethical Aspects of Health Care  
PHL 320: Social & Political Philosophy  
PHL 349: Philosophy of Religion  
PHL 405: Contemporary Philosophy  
PHL 492: Independent Study: Philosophy Lab  
PHL 495: Honors Independent Research

### **Other Institutions**

PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy (University of Illinois)  
PHIL 202: Symbolic Logic (University of Illinois)  
PHI 101: Basic Issues in Philosophy (Illinois State University)  
PHL 2210: Introduction to Logic (Concordia University Chicago)  
PHL 110: Ethics (North Central College)

### **DEPARTMENTAL AND ACADEMIC SERVICE**

2022–present. Faculty Director, First-Year Seminar, Elmhurst University.  
2019–present. Innovation Committee, Elmhurst University.  
2020–present. Integrated Curriculum Committee, Elmhurst University.  
2018–19. Instructor, “Finding My Path” First-Year Program, Elmhurst University.  
2014, 2018, 2019. Co-Instructor, Honors Program Directed Readings, Elmhurst University  
2012. Mentor for New Teaching Assistants, University of Illinois  
2011. Research Assistant for Prof. Denise Cummins  
2009–10. Graduate Philosophy Organization Pedagogy Chair, University of Illinois  
2008–10. Research Assistant for Prof. Robert Cummins  
2008–9. Graduate Philosophy Organization President at University of Illinois  
2005. Research Assistant, Dynamic Cognition Laboratory, Washington University-St. Louis

## **LANGUAGE COMPETENCE**

Reading knowledge of Ancient Greek and French

## **ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Phi Beta Kappa, inducted 2003

Phi Kappa Phi, inducted 2003

Eta Sigma Phi, inducted 2004

American Philosophical Association

## **REFERENCES**

Robert Cummins, Professor of Philosophy (Retired), University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign  
[rowbear.cummins@gmail.com](mailto:rowbear.cummins@gmail.com)

William Hirstein, Professor of Philosophy, Elmhurst University  
[williamh@elmhurst.edu](mailto:williamh@elmhurst.edu)

Daniel Korman, Professor of Philosophy, University of California–Santa Barbara  
[dkorman@philosophy.ucsb.edu](mailto:dkorman@philosophy.ucsb.edu)

Katrina Sifferd, Associate Professor of Philosophy, Elmhurst University  
[sifferdk@elmhurst.edu](mailto:sifferdk@elmhurst.edu)

David Sussman, Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign  
[dsussman@illinois.edu](mailto:dsussman@illinois.edu)