

R. Austin Kippes

Curriculum Vitae

EDUCATION

Ph.D.	Philosophy, Binghamton University	2025
	Dissertation: <i>Theory, Practice, and Utopia: A Critique of Ideal and Nonideal Theories of Justice</i>	
	Committee: Mattias Iser (chair), Mateo Duque, Bob Guay, Titus Stahl (external)	
M.A.	Philosophy, Boston College	2018
B.A.	Philosophy, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga	2016
B.A.	History, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga	2016

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Social and Political Philosophy; Theories of Justice; Political Methodology, Utopianism, and Realism

AREAS OF COMPETENCY

Continental Philosophy; Philosophy of Law; PPE (Philosophy, Politics, and Economics); Ethics; Ancient Greek Philosophy; Classical Asian Philosophy

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Georgia College & State University	2025-present
Department of Philosophy, Religion, & Interdisciplinary Studies	
Limited-Term Lecturer	
University of Tennessee, Chattanooga	2022-2025
Department of Philosophy and Religion	
Adjunct Instructor	
Binghamton University	2020-2025
Department of Philosophy	
Teaching assistant and Instructor of Record	
Henderson Community College	2021-2023
Humanities	
Adjunct Instructor	
Volunteer State Community College	2019-2021

Department of Philosophy
Adjunct Instructor
University of Tennessee, Chattanooga 2018-2019
Department of Philosophy and Religion
Adjunct Instructor
Boston College 2017-2018
Learning Resources for Student Athletes
Tutor

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Journal articles

[“Utopianism and Plato’s *Republic*”](#) – *Theoria*, 2025

Book Chapters

“The Ideal Society” in *Introduction to Social and Political Philosophy* (Rebus Community) (Forthcoming)

Published Commentary

“Deconstructing Natural Justice in Aristotle: Comments on Darly Li” in *Southwest Philosophy Review* (Forthcoming)

WORK CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS

Book Manuscript

“Theory, Practice, and Utopia” (tentatively titled)

Essays

“Practices, Norms, and Normatively Transformational Theorizing”

“In Defense of Utopian Excess”

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

Binghamton University, Graduate School Travel Grant, 2024

Binghamton University, Dissertation Assistantship, 2023

University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, Outstanding Senior in Philosophy, 2016

University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, Robert Cecil Mildram Prize, 2016

INVITED TALKS

[“Can We Avoid Idealizing Justice?”](#) University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, February 15, 2024

“Subversive Fascism: An Ontological Contradiction,” University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, November 8, 2017

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Papers

“On the Immanent Utopianism of Nonideal Theory,” The Futures of Philosophy: Metaphysics, Ethics and Politics, Boston College Philosophy Graduate Student Conference, Chestnut Hill, MA, March 21-22, 2025

“Antimoralism, Justification, and Utopianism,” Philosophy, Practice, and Crisis at Michigan State University Graduate Philosophy Conference, East Lansing, MI, March 23, 2024

“The Role of Utopia in Plato’s *Republic*,” The Concept of Utopia and its Function, Virtual international conference (hosted Vilnius University, Vilnius, Lithuania), March 25-26, 2022

“Regimes of Truth in the Work of Michel Foucault,” The Tennessee Philosophical Association Conference, Nashville Tennessee, November 8-9, 2019

“Pandemic Panics of ’01: How Anarchist and Jihadi Terrorism Made the U.S. Fear Itself,” co-presentation with Abolfazl Sotoudeh-Sherbaf, Eastern Sociological Society Conference, Baltimore, MD, February 22-25, 2018

“The Politics of Presence: A Reading of Power in *Différance*,” The North Georgia Student Philosophy Conference, Kennesaw, GA, April 21-22, 2017

“A-Systematic Deconstruction: Post-Anarchism as a Methodology,” The North Georgia Student Philosophy Conference, Kennesaw, GA, April 22-23, 2016

“Through the Lens of Post-Anarchism: Iran,” The Southeastern Tennessee Regional Student History Conference, Chattanooga, TN, April 14, 2016

“Through the Lens of Post-Anarchism: The Middle East,” The National Center for Undergraduate Research, Asheville, NC, April 7-9, 2016

“The Relationship Between Capitalism and the State: A Critique of Marxism,” The North Georgia Student Philosophy Conference, Kennesaw, GA, March 27-28, 2015

Commentary

“Exercising Virtue for the Common Good: Natural Justice in Aristotle’s *Nicomachean Ethics*,” The Southwestern Philosophical Society Conference, Savannah, GA, November 21-22, 2025

“What is Authority?” The Tennessee Philosophical Association Conference, Nashville, TN, October 20-21, 2015

Panel Moderator

Binghamton University Graduate Philosophy Conference, Binghamton, NY, November 6-7, 2021

International Merleau-Ponty Circle Conference, Chattanooga, TN, November 8-10, 2018

The Tennessee Philosophical Association Conference, Nashville, TN, October 20-21, 2015

CAMPUS TALKS

“Lenin and the Relation Between Capitalism and WWI,” Philosophy and World War I, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, October 4, 2018

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Georgia College & State University

In-Person

Survey of Philosophy (Spring 2026)

[Philosophy and Social Justice](#) (Fall 2025)

[Global Perspectives: Equity and Justice](#) (Fall 2025)

Binghamton University, Instructor of Record

In-Person

[Intro to Political Philosophy](#) (Fall 2021)

Online Synchronous

[Theory, Practice, and Utopia](#) (Summer 2023)

Intro to Philosophy (Winter 2023, Summer 2022)

Binghamton University, Teaching Assistant

In-Person

Technology, Ethics, and Policy (Fall 2024)

Philosophy of Law (Spring 2024, Spring 2023)

Existence and Freedom (Fall 2022)

Methods of Reasoning (Spring 2022)

Intro to Asian Philosophy (Spring 2021)

Law and Justice (Spring 2025, Fall 2020)

University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, Adjunct Instructor

In-Person

Western Philosophical Traditions II (Spring 2019, Fall 2018)

Online A-synchronous

[History of Political Philosophy](#) (Fall 2024)

[Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy](#) (Fall 2023)

[Intro to Asian Philosophy](#) (Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Fall 2022, Spring 2022)

[Intro to Ethics](#) (Summer 2025, Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023)

Intro to Philosophy (Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Spring 2022)

Henderson Community College, Adjunct Instructor

Online A-synchronous

[Business Ethics](#) (Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Fall 2021)

Volunteer State Community College, Adjunct Instructor

In-Person

Introduction to Philosophy (Spring 2021) (Spring 2020, Fall 2019)

Online A-synchronous

Introduction to Ethics (Spring 2020)

Boston College, Learning Resources for Student Athletes, Tutor

In-Person

Philosophy of the Person tutoring (Summer 2018, Spring 2018, Fall 2017)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Treasurer, GSO Philosophy, Binghamton University, 2021-2022

Member, Boston College Master's Council, Boston College, 2016-2018.

President, Philosophy Club, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, 2015-2016.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Philosophical Association

Tennessee Philosophical Association

LANGUAGES

English: fluent reading, writing, speaking

Spanish: moderate reading, writing, speaking

REFERENCES

Mattias Iser, Associate Professor
Department of Philosophy
Binghamton University
iser@binghamton.edu

Mateo Duque, Assistant Professor
Department of Philosophy
Binghamton University
mduque@binghamton.edu

Titus Stahl, Associate Professor

Department of Philosophy
University of Groningen
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DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

The contemporary debate between ideal theory and nonideal theories of justice (largely) centers on the extent to which political methodologies should be influenced by social and political practices. Whereas ideal theorists most often ground their principles of justice in an ahistorical and transcendent methodology, nonideal theorists methodologically determine the principles of justice in light of (1) the institutions and practices which condition the possibilities of political agents and/or (2) historical injustices and the conditions that manifest them. My dissertation engages in this debate by criticizing the presupposed relationship between theory and practice within each camp. By demonstrating the extent to which (i) all ideals and principles of justice are conditioned by social and political practices, and that (ii) their practice-conditioned normativity depends on the presupposition that these ideals and principles must extend beyond these same social and political practices, I argue that the normative nature of political philosophy is simultaneously situated and utopian. This means that we ought to understand the relationship between theory and practice as dialectically constituted.