

Tyler K. Fagan | Curriculum Vitae

Department of Philosophy, Elmhurst University
190 Prospect Avenue, Elmhurst, IL 60126
tyler.fagan@elmhurst.edu | 630-617-6475
<https://philpeople.org/profiles/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, coauthored with Erika McCombs and Kyle Bennett.
“Blame It on the Youth.” Article in preparation.

Publications

(forthcoming) “Do State-Mandated Limited Intelligent Speed Assistants Hinder Moral Agency?,” with Katrina Sifferd and Joshua VanArsdall (third author). *Res Publica*.
(2025) “Psychiatric Diagnoses and Criminal Responsibility: An Argument for the Relevance of

- Intellectual Disability,” with Katrina Sifferd (first author). *Criminal Justice Ethics* 44 (2), 160–181. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0731129X.2025.2531699>
- (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
- (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

“Growing As We Give: Service Learning and Place-Based Impacts Across Multiple Courses with an Environmental Theme”

National Collegiate Honors Council, November 2025

“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

“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

2025–present. Integrated Curriculum Working Group, Elmhurst University.
2022–present. Faculty Director, First-Year Seminar, Elmhurst University.
2022–present. Academic Review Board, Elmhurst University.
2022–present. SOAR Committee, Elmhurst University.
2019–2023. Innovation Committee, Elmhurst University.
2020–2023. 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

LANGUAGE COMPETENCE

Reading knowledge of Ancient Greek and French

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Phi Beta Kappa, inducted 2003	Eta Sigma Phi, inducted 2004
Phi Kappa Phi, inducted 2003	American Philosophical Association

REFERENCES

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

William Hirstein, Professor of Philosophy (Retired), Elmhurst University
williamh@elmhurst.edu

Daniel Korman, Professor of Philosophy, University of California–Santa Barbara
dkorman@philosophy.ucsb.edu

Katrina Sifferd, Associate Professor of Philosophy, Elmhurst University
sifferdk@elmhurst.edu

David Sussman, Professor of Philosophy, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
dsussman@illinois.edu