

# J. Spencer Atkins

## *Curriculum vitae*

Binghamton University  
Philosophy Department  
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[PhilPeople](http://PhilPeople)

**Areas of Specialization:** Ethics, Social Epistemology, Environmental Philosophy

**Areas of Competency:** Philosophy of Religion, Political Philosophy, Philosophy of Law

## EDUCATION

*Binghamton University* – Ph.D. in Philosophy, expected 2024

*University of Tennessee, Knoxville* – MA in Philosophy, 2020

*University of Tennessee, Martin* – BA in Philosophy and English, *Summa Cum Laude* 2017

## PUBLICATIONS

### Articles

- “Do Your Homework! A Rights-Based Zetetic Account of Alleged Cases of Doxastic Wronging,” forthcoming in *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*.
- “Species’ Wellbeing, Counterfactual Comparative Harm, and the Non-Identity Problem,” forthcoming in [Dialogos](#).
- “Making Punishment Safe: Adding an Anti-Luck Condition to Retributivism and Rights Forfeiture,” forthcoming in [Law, Ethics, and Philosophy](#).
- “Defining Wokeness,” [Social Epistemology](#) 37, 3 (2023): 321-338.  
Target Response: Davidson, Lacey J. “The Scope of Woke: A Reply to Atkins.” [Social Epistemology Review and Reply Collective](#) 12, 4 (2023): 16–21.
- “Moral Encroachment, Wokeness, and the Epistemology of Holding,” [Episteme](#) 20, 3 (2023): 86-100.
- “Epistemic Norms, the False Belief Requirement, and Love,” [Logos & Episteme](#) XII, 3 (2021): 287-306.
- “Have You Benefited from Carbon Emissions? You May Be a ‘Morally Objectionable Free Rider,’” [Environmental Ethics](#) 40, 3 (2018): 283-296.

### Public-Facing Articles

- [Invited] “Defending Wokeness: A Reply to Davidson,” [Social Epistemology Review and Reply Collective](#) 12 (2023): 21-26.
- “Why Is It Wrong to Break Skateboarders’ Legs?” in [Better Call Saul and Philosophy](#), eds. J. Heter and B. Coppenger. (2022): 198-209.

### Commentary Paper

- “Carbon Pricing and the Beneficiary Pays Principle: Framing Market Based Incentives

Around Compensation Obligations,” [Ethics, Policy, and Environment](#) 22 (2): 148-150 (2019).

Commentary of Alexandre Gajevic Sayegh, “Pricing Carbon for Climate Justice”

### **Philosophical Book Reviews**

Review of *Making Things Up*. By Karen Bennett. “Going up?” [Metascience](#), January 2019.

Review of *Abundant Earth: Toward an Ecological Civilization*. By Eileen Crist, [Environmental Ethics](#) 41(2): 189-192 (2019).

Review of *Atonement*. By Eleonore Stump, [Theological Studies](#) 80 (3): 725-726 (2019).

Review of *Toward the Ethics of a Green Future: The Theory and Practice of Human Rights for Future Persons*. Eds. Marcus Düwell, Gerhard Bos, and Naomi Van Steenbergen, [Environmental Values](#) 28 (4): 510-512 (2019).

### **Literary Article**

“On Tolkien’s Presentation of Distributism Through the Shire,” [Mallorn](#), 58 (3): 14-23 (2017).

### **WORK IN PROGRESS**

“[A Solution to the Value-Reflecting Reasons Problem for Moral Encroachment](#)”  
(Under Review)

“[Moral Encroachment as Interest-Dependent Contextualism](#)”

“[Meaningfulness Encroachment, Moral Encroachment, and Diminishment](#)” (Under Review)  
“Encroachment Mechanisms”

### **PRESENTATIONS**

*Meaningfulness Encroachment, Moral Encroachment, and Diminishment* [[Slides](#)]

Long Island Philosophical Society Conference  
Long Island, 2024

International Conference on Philosophy and Meaning in Life  
Sendai, Japan, 2023

[Invited] *Moral Encroachment: Does Knowledge Require Moral Goodness?* [[Slides](#)]  
Colorado State University, Pueblo Department Colloquium, 2023

*Moral Encroachment as Interest-Dependent Contextualism* [[Slides](#)]

Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy  
“Epistemic Justification: Formal Epistemology Meets Mainstream  
Epistemology” Munich, Germany, 2023

Philosophy in the Ozarks Graduate Conference

“Perspectives in Social Epistemology and Philosophy of Language,” 2023

*Wokeness: The Partiality View* [[Slides](#)]

“Virtuous and Vicious Partiality: A Christopher Newport University Ethics  
Conference,” 2022

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign Graduate Philosophy Conference, 2021

*Defining Wokeness*

Meeting of the North American Society for Social Philosophy, 2021

Ryerson Philosophy Graduate Student Conference, “Society, Community, Collectives” 2020  
 Bowling Green State University Graduate Workshop in Applied Philosophy, 2020  
*COVID-19, Economic Roles, and the Crisis of Identity* (with Robert Austin Kippes)  
 Binghamton University Graduate Colloquium, 2021  
*Eternity, Climate Change, and the God of Classical Theism: Grounding a Responsibility to Reduce Carbon Emissions for Theists*  
 Meeting of American Maritain Association, 2019  
 Midsouth Philosophy Conference, 2019  
*Recognition at the Dinner Table: Recognitionworthiness and the Consumption of Animals*  
 Conference of the University of Kentucky Graduate Student Association, 2019  
*Have You Benefited from Carbon Emissions? You May Be a Morally Objectionable Free Rider*  
 Concerned Philosophers for Peace, 2018

## COMMENTARY

Marshall Naylor, “Precision in the Mind of God”  
 43<sup>rd</sup> Midsouth Philosophy Conference Memphis, TN March 22-23, 2019

## AWARDS

Binghamton University: Dissertation Assistantship	2024
Binghamton University: Graduate Student Excellence Award in Research	2023
Graduate Student Organization Travel Funding Recipient	2022
John Hardwig Award for Graduate Teaching Excellence	2019
Summer Research Assistantship Recipient, University of Tennessee Faculty Senate	2019
Fellowship Recipient, University of Tennessee Graduate School	2018—2020

## TEACHING

Binghamton University, <u>Primary Instructor</u> (In-Person, Online Synchronous)	
1. Special Topics: The Ethics of Belief (Upper Division)	Winter 2023
2. <a href="#">Methods of Reasoning</a>	Summer 2023
3. <a href="#">Intro to Ethics</a>	Fall 2022
4. <a href="#">Logic</a>	Summer 2022
Colorado State University, Pueblo, <u>Primary Instructor</u> (Online Asynchronous)	
1. Critical Thinking	Fall 2023
2. Classics in Ethics	Summer 2023
3. Philosophy and Literature	Summer 2023
4. Intro to Logic	Spring 2023
5. Classics in Ethics	Spring 2023
6. Philosophy and Literature	Spring 2023
7. Islam and Non-Western Philosophy	Spring 2023
SUNY Plattsburgh, <u>Primary Instructor</u> (Online Asynchronous)	
1. Environmental Ethics (Upper Division)	Spring 2024
2. <a href="#">Food Justice</a> (Upper Division)	Fall 2023
3. <a href="#">Logic</a>	Spring 2023

Fitchburg State University, <u>Primary Instructor</u> (Online Asynchronous)	
1. <a href="#">Philosophy of Human Nature</a>	Summer 2023
2. <a href="#">Social and Political Philosophy</a> (Upper Division)	Spring 2023
3. <a href="#">Medical Ethics</a>	Spring 2023
4. <a href="#">Contemporary Ethical Problems</a>	Spring 2023
5. Medical Ethics	Fall 2022
6. Medical Ethics	Fall 2022
7. Contemporary Ethical Problems	Fall 2022
Dyersburg State Community College, <u>Primary Instructor</u> (Online Asynchronous)	
1. <a href="#">Intro to Philosophy</a> (Topical)	Summer 2023
2. Intro to Philosophy (Topical)	Fall 2022
3. Intro to Philosophy (Topical)	Summer 2022
4. Intro to Philosophy (Topical)	Spring 2022
5. Intro to Philosophy (Topical)	Spring 2022
6. Intro to Philosophy (Topical)	Summer 2021
Binghamton University, <u>Graduate Teaching Assistant</u> (In-Person)	
1. Methods of Reasoning (Critical Thinking), Casey Doyle	Fall 2023
2. Methods of Reasoning (Critical Thinking), Casey Doyle	Spring 2023
3. Medical Ethics, Anja Karnein	Spring 2022
4. Law and Justice, Charles Goodman	Fall 2021
Served as Head Teaching Assistant	
5. Intro to Asian Philosophy, Charles Goodman (Online)	Spring 2021
6. Law and Justice, Charles Goodman	Fall 2020
Oak Ridge Institute for Continued Learning, <u>Primary Instructor</u>	
1. Death, Suffering, and Evil: The Problem of Evil	Summer 2019
University of Tennessee at Knoxville, <u>Graduate Teaching Assistant</u>	
1. Contemporary Moral Problems, Alex Feldt	Spring 2020
2. Intro to Philosophy (Topical), Kristina Gehrman	Fall 2019
3. Contemporary Moral Problems, Alex Feldt	Spring 2019
4. Contemporary Moral Problems, Alex Feldt	Fall 2018

## SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATION

Cologne Summer School in Philosophy: “Experts, Epistemic Authority, and the Limits of Autonomy”	Summer 2021
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## CERTIFICATIONS/WORKSHOPS

D2L Certification, Dyersburg State Community College	Spring 2021
Best Practices in Publishing, University of Tennessee	Spring 2020
Best Practices in Teaching, University of Tennessee	Spring 2019

## SERVICE TO PHILOSOPHY

Referee work: <i>Synthese</i> (x4); <i>Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy</i> ; <i>Erkenntnis</i> ; <i>Ethical Theory and Moral Practice</i> ; <i>Asian Journal of Philosophy</i> ; <i>Episteme</i>	
Committee Member: Graduate Committee for Full Professorship of Christopher Morgan-Knapp	
<i>Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i> , Assistant Editor	Spring 2017

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

American Philosophical Association  
Concerned Philosophers for Peace  
Inquiry Network

## GRADUATE COURSEWORK

### *Ethics, Social/Political Philosophy, Phil. Of Law*

Ethics and Economic Life (Christopher Morgan-Knapp)  
Social and Political Theory (Anthony Reeves)  
Philosophy of Criminal Law (Anthony Reeves)  
Buddhist Ethics (Charles Goodman)  
Contemporary Ethics (Lisa Tessman)  
Love and Friendship (Mattias Iser)  
Moral Sentiment (Clerk Shaw)  
Animal Mind and Ethical Theory (Jon Garthoff)  
Long Term Non-Anthropocentric Ethics (John Nolt)  
*Audit:* Climate Ethics (John Nolt)

### *History of Philosophy*

Aristotle (Clerk Shaw)  
History of the Idea of Nature (Kristina Gehrman)  
*Audit:* History of Modern Moral Philosophy (Adam Cureton)

### *Metaphysics and Epistemology*

Social Epistemology (Georgi Gardiner)  
Epistemic Dimensions of Agency (E.J. Coffman)  
Independent Study (Metaphysics) (David Palmer)  
Grounding (David Palmer)  
*Audit:* Advanced Survey of Epistemology (E.J. Coffman)

### *Miscellaneous*

Rational Choice and Decision Theory (Mariam Thalos)  
Advanced Formal Logic (John Nolt)

## REFERENCES

### Professional References

Christopher Morgan-Knapp, Professor, Binghamton University  
[c.morgan-knapp@binghamton.edu](mailto:c.morgan-knapp@binghamton.edu)  
Sanford Goldberg, Professor, Northwestern University  
[s-goldberg@northwestern.edu](mailto:s-goldberg@northwestern.edu)  
Charles Goodman, Professor, Binghamton University  
[cgoodman@binghamton.edu](mailto:cgoodman@binghamton.edu)  
Anthony Reeves, Associate Professor, Binghamton University  
[areeves@binghamton.edu](mailto:areeves@binghamton.edu)  
John Nolt, Professor, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

[nolt@utk.edu](mailto:nolt@utk.edu)

**Teaching References**

David Svolba, Associate Professor, Fitchburg State University

[dsvolba@fitchburgstate.edu](mailto:dsvolba@fitchburgstate.edu)

Mateo Duque, Assistant Professor, Binghamton University

[mduque@binghamton.edu](mailto:mduque@binghamton.edu)

E.J. Coffman, Professor, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

[ecoffma1@utk.edu](mailto:ecoffma1@utk.edu)