

DANIEL WEBBER

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AREAS OF INTEREST

AOS: Ethics • Metaethics

AOC: AI & Technology Ethics • Applied Ethics (incl. Bioethics) • Political Philosophy

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Stanford University

Postdoctoral Fellow

Program for Civic, Liberal, and Global Education 2025 –

McCoy Family Center for Ethics in Society;
Institute for Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence 2023 – 2025

EDUCATION

University of Pittsburgh, PhD in Philosophy 2023

Dissertation: *Let's Get Real: Counterfactual Moral Theories in the Actual World*

Committee: Japa Pallikkathayil (co-chair), Jed Lewinsohn (co-chair),
Michael Thompson, Gideon Rosen (Princeton University)

Amherst College, BA with distinction in Computer Science 2014

PUBLICATIONS

“Putting Wronging First,” *Philosophical Quarterly* 75: 734–753 (2025)

“The Misapplication Dilemma,” *Noûs* 58: 973–996 (2024)

IN PROGRESS

“Deeply Relational Contractualism” (committed to *Oxford Studies in Normative Ethics* 17,
pending final review)

“What is a Moral Law? Ask the Normative Ethicists” (committed to *Oxford Studies in
Metaethics* 22, pending final review)

IN PROGRESS, CONT.

- A paper on contractualism, rule consequentialism, and conventions (under review)
- A paper on the moral force of conventional rights
- A paper on moral uncertainty
- A paper on the limits of AI value alignment
- A paper on AI, meaningful work, and meaningful lives

PRESENTATIONS

- “Deeply Relational Contractualism”
Arizona Workshop in Normative Ethics (WiNE) January 2026
- “What is a Moral Law? Ask the Normative Ethicists”
Madison Metaethics Workshop (MadMeta) September 2025
- “How to Decide When You Don’t Know How to Decide”
Washington University in St. Louis (Invited) January 2025
- “Conventional Rights and the Improvement Problem”
Eastern APA, New York January 2025
PPE Society, New Orleans November 2024
- “Contractualism and the Wrong World Problem”
Central APA, New Orleans February 2024
- “Ideal Code, Real Conventions”
Stanford Political Theory Workshop (Invited) October 2023

COMMENTS

- Yuan Yuan, “Norm-Required Rights Infringements and Combat Moral Injury”
Stanford Political Theory Workshop April 2025

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

University of Pittsburgh:

- Michael R. Bennett Essay Prize in Philosophy 2023
for “Contractualism and the Wrong World Problem”
- Pre-Doctoral Mellon Fellowship 2016 – 2017
2019 – 2020
2020 – 2021

TEACHING

Instructor of Record:

Stanford University:

Environmental Sustainability <i>co-taught with Will Barnett and Chris Field</i>	Spring 2026
Citizenship in the 21 st Century	Winter 2026
Why College? Your Education and the Good Life <i>co-taught with Jennifer Daly</i>	Fall 2025

University of Pittsburgh:

Introduction to Ethics	Summer 2020
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Ethics Instructor (Stanford University):

Machine Learning from Human Preferences	Fall 2024
Reinforcement Learning	Spring 2024 & Winter 2025
Introduction to Game Design	Spring 2025
Design and Analysis of Algorithms	Fall & Winter 2023–24 & 2024–25
Programming Methodology	Spring 2024 & 2025
Operating Systems Principles	Spring & Fall 2024; Winter 2025
Design for Behavior Change	Winter 2024
Introduction to Human-Computer Interaction Design	Fall 2023 & 2024
Probability for Computer Scientists	Fall, Winter & Spring 2023–24 & 2024–25

Teaching Assistant (University of Pittsburgh):

Philosophy and Public Issues	Spring 2019
Philosophy of Mind	Fall 2018
Introduction to Logic	Spring 2018
Political Philosophy	Fall 2017

INVITED GUEST TEACHING

“Value Alignment in Artificial Intelligence”
in COSC-227, “Neural Safety Net,” Amherst College December 2025
This lecture also has thousands of views on [Youtube](#) as part of an online course through Stanford.

ADVISING

Second reader, Ethics in Society Honors Thesis (Stanford University) 2024

SERVICE

University of Pittsburgh:

Graduate Technology and Web Administrator	2018 – 2021
Ethics Search Committee	2019
Referee, Pitt-CMU Graduate Conference	2019, 2020
Lead Graduate Organizer, Prospective Student Visit	2017

Referee for *Acta Analytica*

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

Research Assistant to Robert Brandom	2022 – 2023
• Developed software to simulate dialogues and reasoning in non-monotonic logic	
Research Assistant to Japa Pallikkathayil	Summer 2020
• Gave feedback on Japa's work in progress	

SOFTWARE EMPLOYMENT

Software Engineer, 1stDibs, New York, NY	2015 – 2016
Software Engineer, FactSet Research Systems, Norwalk, CT	2014 – 2015

REFERENCES

Gideon Rosen
Stuart Professor of Philosophy
Princeton University
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Japa Pallikkathayil
Associate Professor of Philosophy
University of Pittsburgh
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Leif Wenar
Professor of Philosophy
Faculty Director, Ethics in Society
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Jed Lewinsohn
Associate Professor of Philosophy
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jed@pitt.edu

Stephen Engstrom (teaching reference – letter covers both Pitt and Stanford)
Distinguished Professor of Philosophy
University of Pittsburgh
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