

Dr. Nathan G. Wood

Curriculum Vitae

Research Focus

Areas of Specialization Autonomous Weapon Systems, Outer Space Warfare, Ethics and War, International Humanitarian Law, Ethics and Emerging Technologies

Areas of Competence Applied Ethics, Political Philosophy, Deontic Logic, Logics of Agency

Education

- 2017–2021 **Doctor of Philosophy**, *Ghent University – Center for Logic and Philosophy of Science*, Ghent, Belgium
- 2013–2016 **Master of Arts in Philosophy & Economics**, *Universität Bayreuth*, Bayreuth, Germany, *GPA – 1.7 (3.6 US equivalent)*
- 2008–2011 **Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy (*Cum Laude*)**, *California Polytechnic State University*, San Luis Obispo, *GPA – US 3.7*
Concentration in Ethics & Society

Publications

- Forthcoming “Autonomous Weapons and Strategic Stability”, in Gallioth, J., editor, *Oxford Handbook of Remote War*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, United Kingdom (forthcoming)
- “Power and Politics in the Design of Autonomous and AI-Enabled Weapons”, in Fox, A. and Cressman, D., editors, *Arrangements of Power: Tracing Langdon Winner’s Legacy Within and Beyond the Philosophy of Technology*. Springer (forthcoming)
- “AI, Trust, and Teaming: The humans-as-handlers approach for autonomous and opaque AI systems”, *Minds and Machines* (forthcoming)
- 2025 “Bombs, Bots, and the Principle of Distinction: The law of armed conflict and contemporary warfare”, *Texas National Security Review* 9.1 (2025), pp. 52–67
- “Autonomous and AI-Enabled Systems: Extensions or Replacements of Human Will and Control?”, *Ethics and Information Technology* 28.1 (2025), pp. 1–16
- “Virtues and Rules in War: Military Ethics and Technologies of Radical Risk-Reduction”, *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* (2025), pp. 1–17 [co-authored with Andrew P. Rebera]
- “Embrace Poland and the Baltic States for Embracing Anti-Personnel Mines”, *War on the Rocks* (June 6, 2025)
- 2024 “Autonomous Weapons for Humanity: Lessons from the Russo-Ukrainian War”, in Ertl, P., editor, *Security through Unity: Europe’s Challenges after Ukraine Crisis*. Schriftenreihe der Landesverteidigungsakademie, Vol. 19. Vienna, Austria (2024), pp. 199–216
- “Reliability Standards for (Autonomous) Weapons”, *Ethics and Armed Forces* 24.1 (2024)

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- “Beyond Transparency and Explainability: On the need for adequate and contextualized user guidelines for LLM use”, *Ethics and Information Technology* 26.3 (2024), pp. 1–12 [co-authored with Kristian González Barman and Pawel Pawlowski]
- “Reply to ‘Collective Responsibility and Artificial Intelligence’”, *Philosophy & Technology* 37.2 (2024), pp. 1–3
- “Explainable AI in the Military Domain”, *Ethics and Information Technology* 26.2 (2024), pp. 1–13
- “To Ban or Regulate: The need for quality in critiques of autonomous weapon systems”, in Pechlaner, H., de Rachewiltz, M., Walder, M., and Innerhofer, E., editors, *Shaping the Future: Sustainability and Technology at the Crossroads of Arts and Science*. Graffeg (2024), pp. 36–43
- “Environmental, Social, and Corporate Governance and the Threat of Authoritarianism”, in Pechlaner, H., de Rachewiltz, M., Walder, M., and Innerhofer, E., editors, *Shaping the Future: Sustainability and Technology at the Crossroads of Arts and Science*. Graffeg (2024), pp. 76–81 [co-authored with Steven Umbrello]
- “Regulating Autonomous and AI-Enabled Weapon Systems: The dangers of hype”, *AI and Ethics* 4 (2024), pp. 805–817
- “Proportionality and Combat Trauma”, *Philosophical Studies* 181.2 (2024), pp. 513–533
- 2023 “Humans Versus Robots in Space Exploration and Colonization: A contextualized approach”, *The International Journal of Applied Philosophy* 37.1 (2023), pp. 47–63 [co-authored with Steven Umbrello]
- “Rise of the Machines or Just a Routine Test?”, *War on the Rocks* (June 30, 2023)
- “Autonomous Weapon Systems: A Clarification”, *Journal of Military Ethics* 22.1 (2023), pp. 1–15
- “Autonomous Weapon Systems and Responsibility Gaps: A taxonomy”, *Ethics and Information Technology* 25.1 (2023), pp. 1–14
- 2022 “Autonomous Weapons Systems and Force Short of War”, *Journal of Ethics and Emerging Technologies* 32.2 (2022), pp. 1–16
- 2021 “Autonomous Weapons Systems and the Contextual Nature of *Hors de Combat* Status”, *Information* 12.5 (2021), pp. 1–11 [co-authored with Steven Umbrello]
- Fighting the Good Fight: An exploration of the necessity and proportionality in the ethics and laws of war*, Ph.D. Thesis, Ghent University Press (2021)
- “The Problem with Killer Robots”, *Journal of Military Ethics* 19.3 (2020), pp. 220–240
- 2018 “Deploying Racist Soldiers: A critical take on the ‘right intention’ requirement of Just War Theory”, *Kriterion – Journal of Philosophy* 32.1 (2018), pp. 53–74
- 2017 “Book Review of *War and Individual Rights: The Foundations of Just War Theory* by Kai Draper”, *International Dialogue* 7.1 (2017), pp. 70–75
- 2015 “Republican International Relations”, *Kriterion – Journal of Philosophy* 29.1 (2015), pp. 51–78

- Submitted “Don’t Fear World War III: We’re already in it”
Articles “Retaining Dignity in Autonomous and AI-Mediated Warfare”
“(Autonomous) Weapon Transfers as Maximal *Jus Ad Vim*? Lessons from Ukraine”
“The Legality of Anti-Satellite Weapons and Orbital Conflict”
“The (Agential) Logic of Proportionality”
“Rethinking Proportionality”

Prizes, Grants, and Scholarships

- 2024–2026 **Postdoctoral Individual Fellowship**, *Czech Science Foundation (GAČR)*
2017–2021 **PhD Fellowship**, *Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO)*
2010 **Rigo Peña Scholarship for Philosophical Writing**, *California Polytechnic State University*

Presentations

- 2025 Podium Panelist at annual workshop of the German Federal Ministry of Research, Technology, and Space (Bundesministerium für Forschung, Technologie und Raumfahrt – BMFTR)
Invited guest lecture at University of Pavia
“*Autonomous Weapon Systems, Military AI, and Responsibility for War Crimes*”
Invited speaker for workshop of the DILEMA project (Designing International Law and Ethics into Military Artificial Intelligence), T.M.C. Asser Institute
“*Opacity in Systems and Nature*”
International Association of Computing and Philosophy Annual Conference
“*Autonomous and AI-Enabled Systems: Extensions or Replacements of Human Will and Control?*”
European International Society for Military Ethics (EuroISME) Annual Conference
“*The Strategic Meme Reserve: Partisan Information Warfighters (NAFO) and the Future of Information Operations*”
Invited speaker for MA course “Governance and Politics of AI”, Hertie School (Berlin)
“*AI in the Military Domain*”
Invited speaker for MA Special Subject course “Ethics of War: Enduring and Contemporary Issues”, Kings College London
“*(Autonomous) Weapon Transfers as Jus ad Vim*”
2024 Invited speaker for Artificial Intelligence and the Professions AAPAE Symposium 2024
“*AI and Military Professionals*”
CAIR AI 4 Society Symposium, Stellenbosch University
“*Dignity, Digital Dehumanization, and AI in War*”
AI and Human Dignity, Centre for Philosophy and AI Research/FAU Erlangen
“*Dignity, Digital Dehumanization, and AI in War*”
Invited guest lecture at University of Pavia
“*Autonomous Weapon Systems, Military AI, and Responsibility for War Crimes*”
Invited public lecture for the Center for Environmental and Technology Ethics – Prague
“*Autonomous and AI-Enabled Weapons, Ethics, and Law*”
Invited panelist for The Ethical Consequences of AI Hype, We and AI webinar
“*AI Hype Everywhere*”

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- Virtue Ethics and Technology, KU Leuven
“Military virtue in modern war: from door-kickers to drone pilots, and beyond”
- Forum on Philosophy, Engineering, and Technology, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology
“Explainable AI in the Military Domain”
- Organizer and panelist for the Responsible AI in the Military Summit (REAIM 2024)
 Panel: *“Mission Possible: Deploying responsible and effective autonomous weapon systems without overregulation”*
- Invited panelist for the Responsible AI in the Military Summit (REAIM 2024)
 Panel: *“Beyond the Black Box: Unpacking Explainability in Military AI”*
- Ethics of Increasing AI Capabilities, Volkswagen Foundation/LMU Munich
“Everything is Dual Use: A defense of (military) AI research and development”
- Ethics and Normativity of Explainable AI, Paderborn University
“Explainable AI in the Military Domain”
- Ethics of AI and Human-Computer Interaction, University of Graz
“Explainable AI in the Military Domain”
- 2023 Invited guest lecture at University of Pavia
“Autonomous Weapon Systems and Responsibility for War Crimes”
- X Tagung für Praktische Philosophie (X Conference for Practical Philosophy)
“The Legality of Anti-Satellite Weapons and Orbital Conflict”
- Annual Civil-Military Relations Conference of the National Defense Academy, Vienna
“Autonomous Weapons for Humanity: Lessons from the Russo-Ukrainian War”
- International Association of Computing and Philosophy Annual Conference
“Bombs, Bots, and the Principle of Distinction”
- European International Society for Military Ethics (EuroISME) Annual Conference
“Proportionality and Combat Trauma”
- Belgian Royal Military Academy – Workshop on Moral Responsibility and the Use of (Semi-)Autonomous Weapons
“Autonomous Weapon Systems and Responsibility Gaps: A taxonomy”
- 2022 Invited guest lecture at University of Pavia
“Autonomous Weapon Systems and Responsibility for War Crimes”
- IX Tagung für Praktische Philosophie (IX Conference for Practical Philosophy)
“Proportionality and Combat Trauma”
- 2021 Brave New World Conference
“Rethinking Proportionality”
- Stockholm Center for the Ethics of War and Peace Graduate Reading Retreat
“Autonomous Weapons Systems: A Clarification”
- 2020 Invited talk at Gothenburg University
“The Problem with Killer Robots”
- 2019 The International Congress of Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science and Technology (CLMPST)
“Probabilistic Agent-Dependent Oughts”
- PhDs in Logic XI
“Probabilistic Agent-Dependent Oughts”

- 2018 Brussels Young Researchers Day
 “*Formalizing the Ethics of War*”
 IV. Tagung für Praktische Philosophie (4th Conference on Practical Philosophy)
 “*Target Acquired: The Ethics of Assassination*”
 Brave New World Conference
 “*Target Acquired: The Ethics of Assassination*”
- 2017 Brave New World Conference
 “*A Duty to Kill*”
 Oxford Philosophy Through Fiction Writing Workshop
 LSE Political Theory Graduate Conference
 “*A Duty to Kill*”
- 2016 Stockholm Center for the Ethics of War and Peace Graduate Reading Retreat
 “*The (Agential) Logic of Proportionality*”
 SOPhiA Graduate Conference
 “*A Duty to Kill*”
- 2015 SOPhiA Graduate Conference
 “*Republican International Relations*”
 Hamburg PEPTalks
 “*The Logic of Permissions*”

Research/Teaching Experience

- 2024–present **Junior Research Group Team Leader**, *Hamburg University of Technology*
 Leading an interdisciplinary research group focused on the ethical and law-abiding design and use of autonomous and AI-enabled systems in the military.
- 2024 **Postdoctoral Fellow**, *Institute of Philosophy of the Czech Academy of Sciences (funded by the Czech Science Foundation (GAČR))*
 Carrying out research on legal and ethical aspects of emerging technologies in the military domain, especially autonomous and AI-enabled weapon systems.
- 2022–present **External Fellow**, *Ethics + Emerging Sciences Group at California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo*
 Carrying out research across a variety of topics relating to the future of warfare, with special focus on autonomous weapons, military uses of AI, and outer space warfare.
- 2022–2023 **Voluntary Postdoctoral Fellow**, *Ghent University*
 Carried out research on ethical and legal aspects of emerging technology in the military, as well as fundamental research on core ethical/legal principles guiding conduct in war.
- 2021 **Grondige studie van vraagstukken in de logica (Advanced Study of Issues in Logic) (Lecturer)**, *Ghent University*
 Designed and taught one of four modules for the course, in which I prepared students to draft their own research proposals for doctoral positions or for research grants.
- 2017–2021 **Doctoral Researcher**, *Ghent University (funded by Flemish Science Foundation (FWO))*
 Carried out research on the ethics and laws of war, culminating in the thesis *Fighting the Good Fight: An exploration of necessity and proportionality in the ethics and laws of war*.
- 2016–2017 **Wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiter (Research Fellow)**, *University of Bayreuth*
 Assisted the department chair with research, teaching, and administrative duties.

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- 2016–2017 **Humanitarian Intervention: A Philosophical Case Study (Lecturer)**, *University of Bayreuth*
Designed and taught a course for 5th semester undergraduates aimed at introducing students to the ethical grounds for military humanitarian interventions, and examining applications to real-world humanitarian crises.
- 2016–2017 **The Historical Foundations of Just War Theory (Lecturer)**, *University of Bayreuth*
Designed and taught own course for 4th semester undergraduates. The purpose of the course was to familiarize students with the main historical texts in just way theory.
- 2016 **Essay Writing 1 (Lecturer)**, *University of Bayreuth*
Prepared and taught two weekly two-hour exercise courses for essay writing, with roughly 10 undergraduate students per course.
- 2016 **Business English 2 (Lecturer)**, *University of Bayreuth*
Taught two weekly two-hour exercise courses for business English, with 20 undergraduate students per course.
- 2016 **MA Introduction to Philosophy (Lecturer)**, *University of Bayreuth*
Created and taught an introductory course in philosophy for incoming MA students for the Philosophy & Economics program at Universität Bayreuth. The purpose of the course was to familiarize students with a wide array of philosophical concepts and methods to prepare them for the MA program.
- 2014, 2016 **Introduction to Political Philosophy (Graduate Teaching Assistant)**, *University of Bayreuth*
Prepared and taught one weekly two-hour seminar for 25-35 students (1st year undergraduates).
- 2015–2016 **Introduction to Ethics (Graduate Teaching Assistant)**, *University of Bayreuth*
Prepared and taught one weekly two-hour seminar for 15-20 students (1st year undergraduates).
- 2015 **Taking Lives: The Ethics of Killing in a Conflict-Ridden World (Lecturer)**, *University of Bayreuth*
Designed and taught own course for 5th semester undergraduates. The primary purpose of the course was to explore the foundational moral justifications for war and killing.
- 2015 **MA Writing Course (Lecturer)**, *University of Bayreuth*
Created and taught an introductory course in philosophical writing for incoming MA students for the Philosophy & Economics program at Universität Bayreuth.
- 2015 **Introduction to Philosophy of Science (Graduate Teaching Assistant)**, *University of Bayreuth*
Prepared and taught one weekly two-hour seminar for 10-15 students (1st year undergraduates).
- 2012 **English Language Teacher**, *Language Center Erlangen*, Erlangen, Germany
Prepared and taught specialized curriculum for numerous English courses, ranging from elementary English for children up to graduate writing courses for non-native speakers.
- 2011 **Ethics, Logic, & Philosophical Writing (Tutor)**, *Cal Poly*
Conducted tutorials for individual students and small groups twice weekly.

Other Work Experience

- 2022–2024 **Academic Editor**, *Self-Employed*
Providing copy- and substantive editing services to academics across multiple disciplines. To date, I have helped multiple articles and two books reach publication.
- 2019 **6th Formal Ethics Conference Local Organizing Committee**, *Ghent University*
Assisted in the administration and local organization of the conference.
- 2016 **13th DEON Organizing Committee**, *University of Bayreuth*
Assisted in local organization for a biennial conference in deontic logic.

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2015, 2016 **BA Admissions Committee**, *University of Bayreuth*

Coordinated data entry and committee meetings for the P&E BA admissions process.

2014–2016 **Administrative Assistant**, *University of Bayreuth*

Assisted the departmental secretary Claudia Ficht in updating the departmental website, notifying students of upcoming events, and organizing departmental events.

2014 **Graduate Research Assistant**, *University of Bayreuth*

Assisted Dr. Olivier Roy in researching for a project on denotical logic and rights relations.

2010–2011 **Instructional Student Assistant**, *Cal Poly*

Assisted in clerical and administrative duties for numerous professors, including proctoring exams, grading weekly assignments, and inputting grades.

Other Skills

Languages English – Native Speaker; German – very advanced; Italian – beginner; Spanish – beginner

Computer Microsoft Office Suite; LaTeX document preparation system