

Timothy Sommers (he/him/his)

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AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

-Social and Political Philosophy
-Normative Ethics
-Philosophy of Law

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

-Applied Ethics
-Meta-Ethics
-Feminist Ethics & Politics

CURRENTLY: Visiting Assistant Teaching Professor of Philosophy
The College of William & Mary

EDUCATION

University of Iowa

Ph.D., Philosophy | December 2022

2022 Graduate College Post-Comprehensive Research Fellowship
2021-2020 Graduate Teaching Fellow (One of four at the University of Iowa)

Brown University

M.A., Philosophy | June 1993

1990-1993 Brown University | All-University Fellow

RELEVANT TEACHING EXPERIENCE

VISITING ASSISTANT TEACHING PROFESSOR

8/2023-7/2025 The College of William & Mary | Philosophy of Law, Ethics, Applied Ethics

ADJUNCT ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Spring 2023 The University of Iowa | Introduction to Philosophy

INSTRUCTOR

2022-2019 The University of Iowa | Ethics and Introduction to Philosophy (Online)
1992 Georgetown University | Political Philosophy and Philosophy of Law

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

1998-1994 Louisiana State University | "Ethics", "Political Philosophy," "Philosophy of Law"

TEACHING AWARDS, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AND RESEARCH

2024 Teaching & Learning Symposium on Generative AI, William & Mary
2021-2020 Graduate Teaching Fellow (One of four at the University of Iowa)
2020 Teaching as Research (TAR), "Does the Ordering of Different Types of Questions Influence Student Performance?" *UI Center for Teaching, Learning & Technology*
2019 Associate Certificate, University of Iowa, *Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching & Learning* (CIRTL)

PUBLICATIONS/SUBMISSIONS: PEER REVIEWED

2024 Sommers, T. "Range Egalitarianism: A Novel Principle of Distributive Fairness," under review.
2023 Sommers, T. "[Can There be Relational Equality Across Generations? Or at All?](#)" *Res Publica*, volume 29, April 14, 2023, pp. 469-481.
2021 Sommers, T., "[Relational Egalitarianism is Not About Egalitarian Relationships](#)," *Public Philosophy Blog of the APA*. (Invited).

PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 Sommers, T. "A New Form of Distributive Egalitarianism," **Association for Political Theory Conference**, November 22, 2024.
- 2024 Sommers, T., Leading a Panel on "Democracy in Polarized Times," **Association for Political Theory Conference**, November 21, 2024
- 2021 "Is Intergenerational Justice a Problem for Relational Egalitarianism?" Colloquium, **Eastern APA**
- 2020 "The Right Critique of Ideal Theory: Ideality, Modeling, and the Behavioral Asymmetry Objection," Colloquium, **Central APA**
- 2020 "Would It Be Better If There Were More of You?" **University of Iowa Faculty Colloquium**, Voted Featured Salon Paper of the Year
- 2019 "Self-Ownership or Basic Liberties?" Colloquium, **Eastern APA**

PUBLICATIONS: DIGITAL/PUBLIC-FACING

- 2021 Sommers, T., "[How Do We Know What We Know about Grading?](#)" *Office of Teaching & Learning Website*, The University of Iowa
- 2018-Present
Monthly columnist with 70+ columns receiving 10-20k page views a month for [3 Quarks Daily](#) a premier website for Science, Arts, Philosophy, Politics and Literature
Sample columns include:
- | | | |
|------|---|----------------------------|
| 2024 | "Is the US a Democracy or a Republic?" | (Political Philosophy) |
| 2023 | "Counterfeit People"/ "Dennett Deux" | (Exchange/D. Dennett) |
| 2022 | "The Ethics of Black Box AI" | (AI Ethics) |
| 2020 | "This Title Only Appears to Convey Information" | (Free Speech/Internet/Law) |
| 2018 | "Two Sources of Objectivity in Ethics" | (Ethics/Metaethics) |

APPLIED PHILOSOPHY | DIGITAL PROJECTS

- 2021 Sommers, T., *Office for Teaching, Learning, & Technology*, [Assessing Assessment: Evidence Based and Nontraditional Approaches to Grading](#), online
- 2019 With Bhandary, A. [Surviving the Indifferents](#) a feminist/care ethics video game

SERVICE WORK

- 2020-2019 Research Assistant, University of Iowa, contributed to creating a **Graduate Certificate in Ethics** with professors Jovana Davidovic and Ali Hasan
- 2019 Founding member, University of Iowa's Chapter of "**Minorities and Philosophy**"

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- 2023-Current Association for Political Theory (APT)
- 2019-Current Association for Feminist Ethics and Social Theory (FEAST)
- 2017-Current American Philosophical Association (APA)