

BEN ALMASSI

CONTACT:

Division of Arts & Letters
Governors State University
University Park IL 60484
philpeople.org/profiles/ben-almassi
balmassi@govst.edu

EMPLOYMENT:

Governors State University, University Park IL

Professor of Philosophy	2022–present
Program Coordinator for Interdisciplinary Studies	2022–present
Affiliate Faculty in Gender & Sexuality Studies	2013–present
Affiliate Faculty in Political & Social Justice Studies	2013–present
Associate Professor of Philosophy	2018–2022
Assistant Professor of Philosophy	2013–2018

College of Lake County, Grayslake IL

Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Humanities	2009–2013
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University of Washington, Seattle WA

Predocctoral Lecturer in Philosophy	2005–2009
Teaching Assistant in Philosophy	2002–2005

EDUCATION:

University of Washington, Seattle WA 2002–2009

MA, Philosophy (2004)
PhD, Philosophy (2009)

Purdue University, West Lafayette IN 1997–2002

BA, Philosophy (2002)
BS, Physics (2002)

BOOKS:

Nontoxic: Masculinity, Allyship, and Feminist Philosophy
Palgrave Macmillan (2022)

Reparative Environmental Justice in a World of Wounds
Lexington Books (2020)

JOURNAL ARTICLES:

Glass Hospitals: Transparency and Trustworthy Interpretation in Medical and Healthcare Expertise
Diametros Journal of Philosophy 82 (2025)

What We Owe Owls: Nonideal Relationality among Fellow Creatures in the Old Growth Forest
Relations: Beyond Anthropocentrism 10(2) (2023)

Relationally Responsive Expert Trustworthiness
Social Epistemology 36(5) (2022)

Value Disputes in Urban Ecological Restoration: Lessons from the Chicago Wilderness
Studies in History & Philosophy of Science 87 (2021)

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Beyond Science Wars Redux: Feminist Philosophy of Science as Trustworthy Science Criticism
Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy 34(4) (2019)

Skepticism and Pluralism on Ethics Expertise
Social Philosophy Today 35 (2019)

Epistemic Injustice and its Amelioration: Toward Restorative Epistemic Justice
Social Philosophy Today 34 (2018)

Medical Error and Moral Repair
International Journal of Applied Philosophy 32(2) (2018)

What's Wrong with Ponzi Schemes? Trust and its Exploitation in Financial Investment
International Journal of Applied Philosophy 32(1) (2018)

Climate Change and the Need for Intergenerational Reparative Justice
Journal of Agricultural & Environmental Ethics 30 (2017)

Ecological Restorations as Practices of Moral Repair
Ethics & the Environment 22(1) (2017)

Toxic Funding? Conflicts of Interest and their Epistemological Significance
Journal of Applied Philosophy 34(2) (2016)

Feminist Reclamations of Normative Masculinity
Feminist Philosophy Quarterly 1(2) (2015)

Medical Ghostwriting and Informed Consent
Bioethics 28(9) (2014)

Trust and the Duty of Organ Donation
Bioethics 28(6) (2014)

Climate Change, Epistemic Trust, and Expert Trustworthiness
Ethics & the Environment 17(2) (2012)

Climate Change and the Ethics of Individual Emissions: A Response to Sinnott-Armstrong
Perspectives: International Postgraduate Journal of Philosophy 4 (2012)

The Consequences of Individual Consumption: A Defense of Threshold Arguments for Vegetarianism and Consumer Ethics, *Journal of Applied Philosophy* 28(4) (2011)

Disability, Functional Diversity, and Trans/feminism
International Journal of Feminist Approaches to Bioethics 3(2) (2010)

Conflicting Expert Testimony and the Search for Gravitational Waves
Philosophy of Science 76(5) (2009)

Trust in Expert Testimony: Eddington's Eclipse Expedition and the British Response to General Relativity
Studies in History and Philosophy of Modern Physics 40(1) (2009)

Experts, Evidence, and Epistemic Independence
Spontaneous Generations: A Journal for the History and Philosophy of Science 1(1) (2007)

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IN EDITED COLLECTIONS:

Making Sense of Masculinity in the Past, Present, and Future

Back to the Future and Philosophy, ed. Joshua Heter and Richard Greene (McFarland forthcoming)

Social Epistemology

Encyclopedia of the Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy (Springer 2023)

Climate Reparations, Compensation, and Intergenerational Restorative Justice

Environmental Restorative Justice, ed. Brunilda Pali and Miranda Forsyth (Palgrave Macmillan 2022)

Sins of the Fathers: Historical Injustice and its Repair in *Black Panther*

Black Panther and Philosophy, ed. Edwardo Perez and Timothy Brown (Blackwell 2022)

Justice After the Dam Breaks

Restorative Justice and the Environment, ed. Carla Boin, Joao Salm, and Katia Roncada (AJUFE 2022)

Intellectual Trust in an Examined Life: On Vicious and Virtuous Trust in Philosophy

The Bright and the Good, ed. Audrey Anton (Rowman & Littlefield 2018)

Experts in the Climate Change Debate

Companion to Applied Philosophy, eds. Brownlee, Coady, and Lippert-Rasmussen (Blackwell 2016)

After Exploitation and Degradation: Prospects for a Model of Environmental Restorative Justice

Cidadania, Justica Restaurativa e Meio Ambiente, eds. Enzo Bello and Joao Salm (Lumen Juris 2016)

Expertise in Agriculture: Scientific and Ethical Issues

Encyclopedia of Food & Agricultural Ethics, eds. Paul Thompson and David Kaplan (Springer 2015)

‘Jackie Treehorn Treats Objects Like Women, Man!’ The Dude as Feminist Ally

The Big Lebowski and Philosophy, ed. Peter Fosl (Wiley 2012)

Public Understanding of Climate Science and the Ethics of Expertise

Between Scientists and Citizens, ed. Jean Goodwin (GPSSA 2012)

REVIEWS & REPLIES:

Reply, “Should We Kill One Owl to Save Another?” by Jay Odenbaugh

Ethics, Policy & Environment (2025)

Review, *Failures of Forgiveness* by Myisha Cherry (Princeton University Press 2023)

Philosophy Now (2024)

Review, *Reconsidering Reparations* by Olufemi Taiwo (Oxford University Press 2022)

Environmental Ethics (2024)

Review, *Expertise: A Philosophical Introduction* by Jamie Carlin Watson (Bloomsbury Academic 2020)

Metapsychology Online Reviews (2020)

Reply, “Oral History and the Epistemology of Testimony” by Tim Kenyon

Social Epistemology Reply & Review Collective (2016)

Review, *A Defense of Ignorance*, by Cynthia Townley (Lexington Books 2011)

Hypatia 28(1) (2013)

Review, *The Philosophy of Expertise*, ed. Evan Selinger & Robert Crease (Columbia University Press 2006)

Ethics 117(2) (2007)

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PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY / INVITED TALKS:

Science on the Mend: Healing Knowledge, Repairing Trust Relationships
Seminar Series on Distrust in Science, Roma Tre University (June 2025)

Restorative Justice and Environmental Justice
Philosophy Learning and Teaching Organization (PLATO) Speaker Series (May 2025)

Fire, Water, and Soil: An Earth Week Event
Justice Corner Series, Social Justice Institute, Governors State University (April 2025)

Prescribed Burning, Indigenous Knowledge, and Restorative Environmental Justice in North America
International Seminar on Restorative Justice and the Environment, Campo Grande, Brazil (May 2024)

The Fire Next Time: Prescribed Burns as Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Epistemic Reparations
Philosophy Speaker Series, Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago (February 2024)

Owl vs. Owl in the Old Growth Forest
Animal Studies Guest Speaker, University of Washington, Seattle (May 2023)
Public Lecture on Values and the Environment, Governors State University (April 2022)

How to do Public Philosophy – In Person, In Print, and Online
Public Philosophy Network, American Philosophical Association, Chicago (February 2022)

Restorative Justice and Climate Change
Speaker Series, The Mint House: Oxford Centre for Restorative Practice, Oxford (October 2021)
Roundtable on Climate Justice, Governors State University (April 2021)

Reparative Intergenerational Justice in a World of Wounds
Climate Justice Workshop, University of Washington, Seattle (February 2021)

Reparative Justice and Ecological Restoration
Guest Speaker, Volunteer Site Steward Network, Forest Preserves of Cook County (January 2021)

Reparative Environmental Justice in a World of Wounds
Interview, Thought About Food Podcast with Ian Werkheiser (December 2020)

Origins of the Chicago Wilderness
+ Catholic Intellectual Tradition Quarterly Salon, DePaul University, Chicago IL (November 2019)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:

Revaluations of 'Paiute Forestry': Prescribed Burns as Traditional and Scientific Ecological Knowledge
+ Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Conference, New Orleans (November 2024)
+ Canadian Society for History & Philosophy of Science Conference, Montreal (June 2024)

Glass Hospitals: Trust, Transparency, and Interpretation in Medical Expertise
+ Midwest Medical Humanities Conference (online) (September 2024)

Epistemic Reparations, Indigenous Knowledge, and Prescribed Burning in the Great Lakes Region
+ Great Lakes Philosophy Conference, Siena Heights University (online) (April 2024)

From Wildfire Crisis to Reparative Burns: Indigenous Knowledge, Environmental Justice, and Fire Stewardship
+ From Crisis to Coordination: Conversations Between Philosophy of Environmental Justice and Philosophy of Conservation Science, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis (May 2024)

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The Fire Next Time: Prescribed Burns as Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Epistemic Reparations
+ Conference on Epistemic Blame and Epistemic Reparations, Winnipeg (September 2023)

Trust in Expertise, Conspiracy Theories, and Resistance to Counterevidence
+ Philosophy, Politics & Economics Conference, New Orleans LA (November 2022)

The Masters Tools Challenge for Feminist Allyship Masculinity
+ Feminist Ethics & Social Theory (FEAST) Conference, Clearwater FL (October 2022)

Climate Reparations, Compensation, and Intergenerational Restorative Justice
+ Onati Workshop on Environmental Restorative Justice (online) (June 2021)
+ Philosophy and the Climate Crisis, Philosophers for Sustainability (online) (June 2021)
+ North American Society for Social Philosophy (online) (July 2021)

Reparative Environmental Justice in a World of Wounds
+ Great Lakes Philosophy Conference, Siena Heights University (online) (April 2021)

Author-Meets-Critics, *Reparative Environmental Justice in a World of Wounds*
+ Association for Practical & Professional Ethics Annual Conference (online) (February 2021)

Owl vs. Owl: Toward Interspecies Repair in the Old Growth Forest
+ International Association for Environmental Philosophy (online) (October 2021)
+ Society for the Study of Ethics and Animals, Colloquium Series (online) (October 2020)

Good Will, Disinterest, and Owning the Libs: On Affective Indicators of Expert Trustworthiness
+ Social Indicators of Trust in Experts, PERITIA, Institut Jean Nicod (online) (October 2020)

Justice After the Dam Breaks
+ International Webinar on Restorative Justice and the Environment (online) (August 2020)

Advocacy in Reparative Justice
+ Public Philosophy Network, American Philosophical Association, Chicago IL (February 2020)

Environmental Justice and Restorative Justice without Romanticism
+ Conference on Philosophy of the City, University of Detroit–Mercy, Detroit MI (October 2019)
+ International Society for Environmental Ethics Summer Conference, Blue River OR (July 2019)

Ethics after Error: Malpractice, Mistrust, and the Limits of Medical Moral Repair
+ Medical Humanities Conference, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo MI (September 2018)

Trustworthy Science Criticism in Distrustful Times
+ Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting, Seattle WA (November 2018)
+ Consortium on Socially Relevant Philosophy of Science and Engineering, Atlanta GA (June 2018)
+ Questioning Science in Uncertain Times Workshop, Ohio State University (February 2018)

Surgical Masks and Masked Review: Authorial Identity, Anonymity, and Implicit Bias in Peer Review
+ Medical Humanities Conference, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo MI (September 2017)

Relational Autonomy, Trust, and the Varieties of Medical Ethics Expertise
+ North American Society for Social Philosophy, Oakland University, Oakland MI (July 2018)
+ Medical Humanities Conference, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo MI (September 2016)

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After Epistemic Injustice: Toward Reparative Epistemic Justice

- + North American Society for Social Philosophy, Loyola University, Chicago IL (July 2017)
- + Epistemology Brown-Bag Series, Northwestern University, Evanston IL (May 2017)
- + FEMMSS Biennial Conference, University of Notre Dame, South Bend IN (October 2016)

Climate Change and the Prospects for a Theory of Intergenerational Environmental Reparative Justice

- + Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago IL (April 2016)
- + International Society for Environmental Ethics, Meeting, St. Louis MO (February 2015)

Teaching Chemistry Ethics to Chemistry Majors

- + Consortium on Socially Relevant Philosophy of/in Science & Engineering, Detroit MI (April 2015)

Environmental Restoration as Moral Repair

- + Central States Philosophical Association, Northwestern University, Evanston IL (October 2014)
- + Conference on Advancing Public Philosophy, Emory University, Atlanta GA (March 2013)
- + Conference on Conservation, Restoration, and Sustainability, BYU, Provo UT (November 2012)

Conflicts of Interest, Community-based Research, and Trustworthy Science Communication

- + Normative Aspects of Science Communication, Iowa State University, Ames IA (June 2014)

Feminist Allyship and Situated Knowledge

- + Feminist Epistemologies, Metaphysics, Methodologies & Science Studies (FEMMSS) Biennial Conference, University of Waterloo, Waterloo ON (August 2014)

Feminist Reclamations of Masculinity

- + Northeast Modern Languages Association, Harrisburg PA (April 2014)
- + Society for Analytical Feminism, Chicago IL (February 2012)

Trusting Others and Knowing for Oneself

- + Conference on Value Inquiry, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green KY (April 2013)

Peer Review in an ArXival Age

- + Society for Philosophy of Science in Practice, University of Toronto, Toronto ON (June 2013)
- + Workshop on the Social Organization of Scientific Inquiry, University of Pittsburgh (April 2013)
- + FEMMSS Biennial Conference, Pennsylvania State University, State College PA (May 2012)
- + Society for Social Studies of Science, Cleveland OH (November 2011)
- + Canadian Society for History & Philosophy of Science, Fredericton NB (June 2011)

Public Understanding of Climate Science and the Ethics of Expertise

- + Between Scientists & Citizens, Iowa State University, Ames IA (June 2012)

Climate Change and the Ethics of Individual Emissions: A Response to Sinnott-Armstrong

- + Association for Practical & Professional Ethics, Cincinnati OH (March 2012)
- + International Society for Environmental Ethics, Chicago IL (February 2012)

Writing Wrongs: Plagiarism, Ghostwriting, and the Epistemology of Testimony

- + Indiana Philosophical Association Fall Meeting, Hanover College, Hanover IN (October 2011)
- + Conference on Value Inquiry, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale IL (April 2010)

Ghostwriting in Medical Research

- + Medical Humanities Conference, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo MI (September 2011)

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Climate Change, Epistemic Trust, and the Ethics of Expertise

+ NSF Workshop on Climate Ethics, University of Alaska-Anchorage (September 2011)

The Varieties of Expertise

+ Epistemology Brown-Bag Series, Northwestern University, Evanston IL (January 2011)

A Defense of Threshold Arguments for Moral Vegetarianism and Consumer Ethics

+ Canadian Society for the Study of Practical Ethics, Fredericton NB (June 2011)

+ Association for Practical & Professional Ethics, Cincinnati OH (March 2010)

Trust and Ponzi Schemes

+ Vincentian Business Ethics Conference, DePaul University, Chicago IL (October 2010)

Trust in Testimony – Interpersonal and Evidential

+ American Philosophical Association Central Division, Chicago IL (February 2010)

Trust in Expert Testimony: The 1919 Eclipse Expedition and the British Response to General Relativity

+ International History & Philosophy of Science Teaching, University of Notre Dame (June 2009)

+ Canadian Society for History & Philosophy of Science, Saskatoon SK (May 2007)

Conflicting Expert Testimony and the Search for Gravitational Waves

+ Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting, Pittsburgh PA (November 2008)

+ Canadian Society for History & Philosophy of Science, Vancouver BC (June 2008)

On Liberty as Feminist Methodology

+ Feminist Epistemologies, Metaphysics, Methodologies & Science Studies Biennial Conference, University of Washington, Seattle (November 2004)

COMMENTARIES:

Commentary: Beba Cibralic, “The Impermissible Targeting of ‘Voluntary’ Human Shields”

+ American Philosophical Association Central Division, Chicago IL (February 2022)

Discussant, Visiting Fellows Roundtable (multiple presenters)

+ DePaul Humanities Center, DePaul University, Chicago IL (February 2020)

Commentary: Julie Gibson, “Climate Justice for the Dead and the Dying”

+ International Society for Environmental Ethics Summer Conference, Blue River OR (July 2019)

Commentary: Xiaoqian Hu, “Wave Function Anti-Realism”

+ Illinois Philosophical Association, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb IL (October 2017)

Discussant, Poster Session (multiple presenters)

+ Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago IL (April 2016)

Commentary: Donald Bungum, “Authorization and Address in Group Testimony”

+ American Philosophical Association Central Division, Chicago IL (March 2016)

Commentary: Jean Goodwin, “What is ‘Responsible Advocacy’ in Science? Good Advice.”

+ Great Plains Society for the Study of Argumentation, Iowa State University (June 2012)

Author-Meets-Critics: Matthew C. Altman, *Kant and Applied Ethics* (John Wiley & Sons, 2011)

+ Association for Practical & Professional Ethics, Cincinnati OH (March 2012)

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Commentary: Clark Wolf, “Climate, Environmental Management, and Intergenerational Debt”
+ NSF Workshop on Climate Ethics, University of Alaska-Anchorage (September 2011)

Commentary: Jennifer Lackey, “Deficient Testimonial Knowledge”
+ American Philosophical Association Central Division, Minneapolis MN (April 2011)

Commentary: Erica Neely, “Pointing Out the Experts”
+ Ohio Philosophical Association, Dayton University (April 2011)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Introductory Courses:

Biomedical Ethics
Contemporary Moral Problems
Environmental Ethics
Feminist Philosophy
First Year Seminar
Interdisciplinary Humanities
Introduction to Ethics
Introduction to Philosophy
Introduction to Social & Political Philosophy
Logic & Practical Reasoning
Medical Humanities
Philosophical Issues in Religion
Scientific Reasoning

Intermediate & Advanced Courses:

Advanced Ethics
Chemistry Ethics
Environmental Justice
Ethics in Healthcare
History & Philosophy of Science
Interdisciplinary Ethics
Interdisciplinary Theories
Political Philosophy / Political Theory
Race, Gender, Justice, and Identity
Studies in the History of Philosophy
Theories of Gender & Sexuality
Theories of Social Justice
Theory of Knowledge

PEER REVIEW:

Conservation & Society
Diametros Journal of Philosophy
Environmental Values
Ethics & the Environment
Feminist Philosophy Quarterly
Intl. Journal of Feminist Approaches to Bioethics
Journal of Applied Philosophy
Journal of Social Philosophy
Medicine, Healthcare & Philosophy
Philosophical Quarterly
Social Philosophy Today
Synthese
Third World Quarterly

De Ethica
Environmental Science and Policy
Episteme
Ethics, Policy & Environment
Hypatia: Journal of Feminist Philosophy
International Studies in Philosophy of Science
Journal of Ethics
Kennedy Institute for Ethics Journal
Philosophy of Science
Philosophical Studies
Social Epistemology
Theoria
Topoi

UNIVERSITY SERVICE:

Program Service:

Geography: Search Committee Chair (2014-2015)
Gender & Sexuality Studies: Steering Committee Member (2016-2018; 2021-present)
Interdisciplinary Studies: Program Coordinator, Assessment, Curriculum Development (2022–present)
Interdisciplinary Studies and Philosophy: Search Committee Chair (2021; 2023; 2024)
Philosophy: Advising, Coordination, Curriculum Development (2013–present)
Political & Social Justice Studies: Program Revision and Curriculum Development (2018)
Religious Studies: Advising, Coordination, Curriculum Development (2013–present)
Restorative Justice Certificate: Program Creation and Curriculum Development (2021–present)

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Divisional Service:

Division of Arts & Letters Curriculum Committee (2017–2019; 2021–2023)
Division of Arts & Letters Faculty Research Series Coordinator (2015–present)
Division of Arts & Letters Personnel Committee (2019–2021)

University Service:

Academic Program Review Committee (2024–present)
Civil Rights Act Fiftieth Anniversary Conference, Planning & Program Committee Chair (2014)
Faculty Development Committee Member (2014–2019)
Faculty Senate Taskforce on Scheduling (2017–2018)
Institutional Policies Committee Member (2016–2018)
Men’s Global Leadership Initiative Planning Committee Member and Workshop Facilitator (2014)
Strategy 2025 Subcommittee Chair on Social, Ethical & Environmental Responsibility (2018–2021)
Sustainability Advisory Council Member (2019–present)
University Personnel Committee (2021–2023)

Union Service:

University Professionals of Illinois Local 4100 Grievance Officer (2025–present)
UPI Local 4100 Area Representative and House of Delegates Representative (2022–present)
UPI Local 4100 Organizing Committee Chair (2021–2025)
UPI Local 4100 Contract Bargaining Team (2015–2016; 2018–2019; 2021–2023)

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICE:

Conference on Values in Medicine, Science, and Technology Program Committee Member, University of Texas at Dallas (2017–2018)
Ethics Bowl, Judge for Upper Midwest Region (2010; 2014; 2015; 2016; 2020; 2023), Two-Year College (2017), and National (2021) Bowl Competitions; Coach for University of Washington (2005; 2006) and College of Lake County (2013)
Facilitator and Instructor, Prison-Neighborhood Arts Project, Stateville Correctional Center (2012–2014)
Feminist Philosophy Brown-Bag Series Coordinator, College of Lake County, Grayslake IL (2010–2013)
Illinois Accreditation Initiative Humanities & Fine Arts Faculty Review Panel, (2014–2022)
Organizer, “*The Shaky Game* at Twenty-Five” (Invited Symposium, American Philosophical Association Pacific Division); and Roundtable Discussion and Celebration of Arthur Fine, Seattle WA (2012)
Peer Mentor, Philosophers Cocoon (2016; 2018; 2021)
Public Philosophy Network, Executive Board, Nominating Committee, and Treasurer (2021–2023)

HONORS & AWARDS:

Faculty Excellence Award, Governors State University (2023)
Book Award Finalist, North American Society for Social Philosophy (2021)
Awarded Sabbatical Leave, Governors State University (2020)
Visiting Fellowship, DePaul Humanities Center, DePaul University (2019-2020)
Awarded Tenure, Governors State University (2018)
Awarded Tenure, College of Lake County (2012)
Distinguished Dissertation Award, Philosophy Department Nominee, University of Washington (2009)
Graduate Teaching Award, Philosophy Department, University of Washington (2008)
Dissertation Fellowship, The Graduate School, University of Washington (2007)
Research Fellowship, Philosophy Department, University of Washington (2002)
Outstanding Graduate in Philosophy, Purdue University (2002)
Steven C. Beering Presidential Scholarship, Purdue University (1997-2002)

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REFERENCES:

Arthur Fine
Emer. Professor, Philosophy
University of Washington
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Sara Goering
Assoc. Professor, Philosophy
University of Washington
sgoering@uw.edu

Alison Wylie
Professor of Philosophy
University of British Columbia
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Rebecca Munk
Chair, Philosophy Dept.
College of Lake County
com573@clcollinois.edu

Mike Hart
Chapter President
UPI Local 4100
mhart@govst.edu

Jason Zingsheim
Dean, College of Arts & Science
Governors State University
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