

## Arthur Obst

*Curriculum vitae*

Email: arthurobst03@gmail.com • Webpage: arthurrobst.com

### EMPLOYMENT

---

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, Chicago, IL

Postdoctoral Research Associate, September 2025-

Institute for Climate & Sustainable Growth (Climate Systems Engineering initiative)

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY, Princeton, NJ

Postdoctoral Research Associate, 2023- August 2025

High Meadows Environmental Institute & University Center for Human Values

### EDUCATION

---

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, Seattle, WA

PhD, Philosophy, 2023

Dissertation: *Wilderness for Wildness: Saving the Wild in a Post-Natural World*

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, Seattle, WA

MA, Philosophy, 2019

Master's Paper: 'Admitting Reasons Against Emitting'

DRAKE UNIVERSITY, Des Moines, IA

BA, Philosophy and English, 2017 (*summa cum laude*)

Capstone Paper: 'The Green Mountains are Walking: Zen and Environmental Ethics'

### RESEARCH AREAS OF SPECIALITY AND COMPETENCE

---

AOS: Environmental Philosophy, Applied Ethics (especially ethics of climate change, conservation, and environmental technologies), Social and Political Philosophy, Normative Ethics

AOC: Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Technology, Feminist Philosophy, Modern Philosophy

### PUBLICATIONS

---

#### *Journal Articles*

- 2025 "Wilderness Values in Rewilding: Transatlantic Perspectives," with Linde De Vroey. *Environmental Values* 34(3): 220-239. <https://doi.org/10.1177/09632719241305719>
- 2024 "Practical Moral Reasoning in the Climate Crisis: A Personal Guide." *Moral Philosophy & Politics* 11(2): 371-395. <https://doi.org/10.1515/mopp-2023-0076>
- 2023 "Flying from History, Too Close to the Sun: The Anxious, Jubilant Futurism of Contemporary 'Age of Man' Environmentalism." *Environmental Ethics* 45(4): 337-357. <https://doi.org/10.5840/enviroethics202383065>
- 2023 "Individual Responsibility and the Ethics of Hoping for a More Just Climate Future," with C.C. Douthett. *Environmental Values* 32(3): 315-335. <https://doi.org/10.3197/096327122X16569260361823>
- 2023 "Let's Rewild Philosophy." *Public Philosophy Journal* 5(2). <https://doi.org/10.59522/EJEK9163>

#### *Book Chapters*

- 2025 "From Wilderness to Rewilding: Defending the 'Will-of-the-Land' in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century," with Linde De Vroey. *Proceedings of the 12<sup>th</sup> World Wilderness Congress*. (Forthcoming).
- 2023 "Responsibility for Climate Harms." In Pellegrino, G. & Di Paola, M. (Eds.) *The Handbook of the Philosophy of Climate Change*. Springer: 561-586. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-07002-0\\_49](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-07002-0_49)

#### *Books & Edited Volumes*

- 2026 *Evolutions in Environmental Ethics: A Collaborative Introduction*, co-edited with Linde De Vroey. Routledge (Under Contract).
- 2022 *Dialogues on Climate Justice*, with Stephen Gardiner. Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003123408>.

## GRANTS, AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS<sup>1</sup>

---

<a href="#"><i>Philosophy in Media Fellowship</i></a> , Mark Sanders Foundation	Summer 2024
<i>Philosophy Departmental Teaching Award</i>	Winter 2023
<i>Graduate Student Conference Presentation Award</i>	2018, 2022, 2023
<a href="#"><i>Melvin Rader Fellowship for Innovative Philosophical Projects</i></a>	Summer 2022
<a href="#"><i>Graduate School Presidential Dissertation Fellowship</i></a>	Fall 2021

## ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP/SERVICE

---

- 2023- Co-Organizer, [\*Philosophy in the Wild\*](#) Annual Conference.
- 2024- Book Review Editor, [\*Environmental Ethics\*](#) Journal
- 2025- Guest Editor, [\*Climatic Change\*](#), “Geoengineering in Crisis”
- 2025- Guest Editor, [\*Public Philosophy Journal\*](#), “The Philosophical Environment”
- 2024-25 Primary Organizer, [\*Geoengineering in Crisis: The Princeton Workshop on Geoengineering Ethics\*](#)
- 2024-25 Coordinator, [\*Conversations on Environment, Responsible Energy, and Life\*](#) (CEREAL)
- 2024-25 Participant, [\*Exploring the Ethics and Societal Interactions of Climate Intervention\*](#) (U.S. National Science Foundation Workshop Series)
- 2023-24 Co-Organizer and Panelist, *Adapting Environmental Ethics for the Anthropocene* Panel (with Allen Thompson and Emma Marris). [Oregon State University](#), University of Washington: Seattle, [Princeton University](#), [City University of New York: Hunter College](#).
- 2023-24 Co-Organizer, *Co-Creation with Nature* Panel (with Linde De Vroey). *Dimensions of Political Ecology*, University of Kentucky.
- 2018-23 Member, Teaching Innovation Committee. University of Washington
- 2019-23 Graduate Student Mentor. University of Washington.
- 2022-23 Graduate Student Representative, University of Washington.
- 2022-23 Co-Organizer, [\*Science, etc.\*](#) Graduate Student Conference. University of Washington.
- 2021-22 Co-Organizer, [\*Philosophy of Race\*](#) Graduate Student Conference. University of Washington.

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

---

- Revise & Resubmit - A co-authored paper elucidating principles for just geoengineering governance.
- Revise & Resubmit - A paper on non-human centered ‘geoengineering’ ethics.
- Under Review - A paper scrutinizing the ethics of [recent outdoor geoengineering experiments](#).
- In Preparation - A paper revisiting the “wilderness debate” between Baird Callicott and Holmes Rolston.
- In Preparation - A co-authored paper on the moral risk of geoengineering impacting global public health.
- In Preparation - A paper on the conceptual foundations of the ‘National Wild and Scenic River System.’

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

---

### PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Senior Thesis Workshop Leader, Values and Public Life program (2023-2025)

### UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Predocutorial Instructor, Friday Harbor Laboratories (Spring 2023)

Predocutorial Instructor, Department of Philosophy (Summer 2020, 2021, 2022)

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Philosophy (2017-2023)

## COURSES TAUGHT

---

### Primary Instructor (University of Washington)

<i>Science Writing for Diverse Audiences</i> (at Friday Harbor Laboratories)	Spring 2023
<i>Environmental Ethics</i>	Summer 2022
<i>Contemporary Moral Problems</i>	Summer 2020 & 2021

---

<sup>1</sup> Awards are associated with the University of Washington, unless otherwise noted.

## COURSES TAUGHT

---

### Teaching Assistant (University of Washington)

<i>Environmental Ethics</i> (Stephen Gardiner)	Winter 2018, 2021, 2022 & 2023
<i>Introduction to Philosophy</i> (Paul Franco)	Spring 2019 & 2022
<i>Contemporary Moral Problems</i> (Michael Blake)	Winter 2018 & Fall 2020
<i>Issues of Global Justice</i> (William Talbott)	Spring 2021
<i>Practical Reasoning</i> (Conor Mayo-Wilson)	Winter 2020
<i>Perspectives on Science, Reason &amp; Reality</i> (Benjamin Feintzeig)	Spring 2018

## SELECT PRESENTATIONS<sup>2</sup>

---

2025. "Deep Ecology, Social Ecology, and the Object of our Environmental Activism," with Linde De Vroey. [\*Anger, Backlash, Violence: Climate Activism Today\*](#). Antwerp Summer School. Antwerp, Belgium.
2025. "Revisiting the Wilderness Debate." [\*Rethinking Wild Europe\*](#). Vienna, Austria.
2024. "Ethics, Marine Cloud Brightening, and Outdoor Research." [\*PCC Summer Institute\*](#). Friday Harbor, WA. \*
2024. "Wilderness as Humility." [\*12<sup>th</sup> World Wilderness Congress\*](#). Rapid City, South Dakota.
2024. "Romanticism for the Future: Verticalizing the Political Spectrum." [\*Nature, Thinking: From Romanticism and Idealism to Ecological Philosophy\*](#). Liverpool Hope University. (Remote)
2024. "Should We Fear the Tollkeepers? Defending the Tollgate Principles for Geoengineering Governance," with Stephen Gardiner. [\*International Society for Environmental Ethics 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting\*](#). University of Fribourg Environmental Sciences and Humanities. Fribourg, Switzerland. (Remote)
2024. "Gaia and the Peril of the Planetary." [\*Myth, Ritual and Practice for the Age of Ecological Catastrophe\*](#). Universität Potsdam. Potsdam, Germany.
2024. "Geoengineering for the Wild?" [\*Conversations on Environment, Responsible Energy, and Life\*](#). High Meadows Environmental Institute. Princeton University. Princeton, New Jersey.
2024. "On the Struggle for Environmental Justice: Decolonizing Wilderness Conservation and Rewilding," with Linde De Vroey. [\*American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting\*](#). Portland, Oregon.
2023. "Flying from History, Too Close to the Sun: The Anxious, Jubilant Futurism of Contemporary 'Age of Man' Environmentalism." [\*Cultural and Historical Awareness Program\*](#). Porterville College. Porterville, California. \*
2023. "Rewilding Europe and Rewilding North America: Rival Approaches?" with Linde De Vroey. [\*Philosophy in the Wild\*](#). Poe Paddy State Park, Pennsylvania.
2023. "The Riddle of the Wild Wolf: What's So Wild About One of America's First Wild and Scenic Rivers, and Why Should We Care?" Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE) and The Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences (AESS) Conference: [\*Reclaiming the Commons\*](#). Portland, Oregon.
2023. "What would Aldo Leopold think about Geoengineering?" [\*International Society for Environmental Ethics 20th Annual Meeting\*](#). Allenspark, Colorado.
2023. "Rewilding Europe and Rewilding North America: Rival approaches?" with Linde De Vroey. [\*Pathways 2023\*](#). Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado.
2023. "Purity, Puritanism, and Wilderness Preservation: Revisiting the received wilderness idea." [\*History of Philosophy Society Annual Meeting\*](#). University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, Tennessee.
2023. "Individual responsibility and the ethics of hoping for a more just climate future" with Cody C. Dout. Ben Rabinowitz Environmental Ethics Workshop. University of Washington, Seattle, WA
2023. "What would Aldo Leopold think about Geoengineering?" UW Philosophy Work-In-Progress Talk. University of Washington, Seattle, WA.
2022. "Flying from history, too close to the sun: The anxious, jubilant futurism of contemporary 'age of man' environmentalism." [\*International Society for Environmental Ethics 19th Annual Summer Meeting\*](#). Seili Island, Finland.
2021. "Wilderness for wildness." [\*Inaugural Philosophy in the Wild Workshop\*](#). Poe Paddy State Park, PA.
2020. "Individual responsibility and the ethics of hoping for a more just climate future." Manchester Center for Political Theory (MANCEPT) Workshop on Individual Responsibility and Climate Change. University of Manchester (remote due to covid).

---

<sup>2</sup> \* Indicates an invited talk.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

---

The Wilderness Society	2022-present
American Association for the Advancement of Science	2021-present
International Society for Environmental Ethics	2019-present
The Phi Beta Kappa Society	2017-present
American Philosophical Association	2016-present
Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society	2015-present

## OUTREACH & PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY

---

Feature, 'Geoengineering in Crisis,' <i>High Meadows Environmental Institute</i>	November 2024
Interviewee, '10 Minutes with Tipton: Dr. Arthur Obst,' <i>The Porterville Reporter</i>	October 2023
Organizer and Panelist, <i>Rewilding Northshore... and Beyond?</i>	June 2023
Feature, 'A Philosopher Goes Wild,' <i>Perspectives</i>	February 2023
Guest, <i>Common Cause for Sustainability Podcast</i>	September 2022
Moderator, <i>Our Relationship with Nature: A Student Interfaith Panel</i>	February 2022
Lecturer (Philosophy), Chateau Retirement Community	2018-2020

## SELECT COURSEWORK

---

Course	Instructor
Seminar on Climate Justice	Stephen Gardiner
Seminar on Geoengineering	Stephen Gardiner and Thomas Ackermann
Climate Ethics	Lauren Hartzell-Nichols
Carbon and Global Climate	Curtis Deutsch
Climate Change Law	Rodney Brown and Craig Gannett
The Project of Moral Theory	Elizabeth Harman and Gideon Rosen
Seminar on Feminist Philosophy	Sara Goering
Seminar on Iris Marion Young	Carina Fourie

## REFERENCES

---

### Stephen Gardiner

Professor  
Department of Philosophy  
University of Washington  
smgard@uw.edu

### Dale Jamieson

Professor  
Department of Environmental Studies  
Department of Philosophy  
New York University  
dale.jamieson@nyu.edu

### Sara Goering

Professor & Department Chair  
Department of Philosophy  
University of Washington  
sgoering@uw.edu

### Michael Blake

Professor  
Department of Philosophy  
Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs  
University of Washington  
miblake@uw.edu

### Robert Socolow

Professor Emeritus  
Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering  
Princeton University  
[socolow@princeton.edu](mailto:socolow@princeton.edu)

### Peter Kahn

Professor  
Department of Psychology  
School of Environmental and Forest Sciences  
University of Washington  
pkahn@uw.edu