

Mike Gadomski

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Areas

Specialization: Social and political philosophy, ethical theory

Competence: Environmental philosophy, applied ethics, logic

Employment

Bryn Mawr College

Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy

2023-

Education

University of Pennsylvania

PhD, Philosophy

2017-23

Dissertation: *Projects of Politics*

Committee: Kok-Chor Tan (chair), Samuel Freeman, Errol Lord

Middlebury College

BA, Philosophy

2010-14

Magna cum laude

Highest departmental honors

Publications

“Crisis Nationalism: To What Degree Is National Partiality Justifiable during a Global Pandemic?”

2021

Ethical Theory and Moral Practice 24, 285-300

with Eilidh Beaton, Dylan Manson, and Kok-Chor Tan

“Understanding as Explanatory Knowledge: The Case of Bjorken Scaling”

2013

Studies in History and Philosophy of Science Part A 44(3), 384-392

with Kareem Khalifa

Works in progress

A paper defending the idea of a distinctly political normativity (under review)

A paper on the relationship between self-determination and immigration (under review)

A paper on the shortcomings of sufficientarianism in a capitalist society (co-authored)

A paper on the relationship between global egalitarianism and immigration

A paper on the authority of political normativity

Fellowships and awards

Graduate Fellowship, The Andrea Mitchell Center for the Study of Democracy, University of Pennsylvania	2021-22
Graduate Associates Program, Perry World House, University of Pennsylvania	2020-21
Benjamin Franklin Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania	2017-21, 2022-23
John T. Andrews Memorial Prize in Philosophy, Middlebury College	2014
Undergraduate Collaborative Research Fund, Middlebury College	2012, 2013

Talks

(† = refereed)

“The Authority of Political Normativity” Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO†	2023
“Making Sense of Political Normativity” APA Central Division Meeting, Denver, CO†	2023
Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO†	2022
Penn Normative Philosophy Group, virtual	2022
“Sufficiency and Socioeconomic Systems” APA Eastern Division Meeting, Montréal, QC†	2023
“Borders, Movement, and Global Egalitarianism” Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO†	2021
Penn Normative Philosophy Group, virtual	2021
“Migration and the Point of Self-Determination” Stanford Graduate Conference in Political Theory, virtual†	2021
Penn Normative Philosophy Group, virtual	2020
“Is There a Coherent Egalitarian Approach to Migration?” IMISCOE PhD led Workshop on Norms and Values, virtual†	2021
“Objectivity in Democratic Politics and Theory” Great Lakes Philosophy Conference, virtual†	2021
“Internationalism and Political Normativity” MANCEPT Workshops in Political Theory, virtual	2021
“Truth and Function in Normative Political Theory” Penn Philosophy Graduate Colloquium, virtual	2021
“Democracy, Justification, and Responsibility” Philosophy in the Wild pilot event, Media, PA	2020
“Objectivity and Practical Political Philosophy” Penn Normative Philosophy Group, Philadelphia, PA	2020

Comments

On Ian Peebles, “The Moralization vs. the Politicization of Social Phenomena: Some Methodological Considerations”

Philadelphia Normative Philosophy Conference, Philadelphia, PA 2023

Teaching

As primary instructor

Bryn Mawr College

Happiness and Reality in Ancient Thought 2024

Truth, Science, and Politics 2024

Environmental Ethics 2023

Global Ethical Issues 2023

Authority, Obligation, and Justice 2023

University of Pennsylvania

Environmental Ethics 2021

The Social Contract 2021

As teaching assistant

University of Pennsylvania

Introduction to Ethics (Sukaina Hirji) 2020

Logic and Formal Reasoning (Daniel Kraemer) 2019

Introduction to Philosophy (Daniel Singer) 2019

The Social Contract (Kok-Chor Tan) 2018

Pre-college

Benjamin B. Comegys School

Philosophy for the Young (5th and 8th grades) 2018-20

George Washington Carver High School of Engineering and Science

Philosophy Club (9th-12th grades) 2019

Credentials

Teaching Certificate, University of Pennsylvania Center for Teaching and Learning 2022

Service and professional activity

Referee, *Political Studies*

Co-founder, Philosophy in the Wild

Co-organizer, Philosophy in the Wild Annual Summer Conference

Poe Paddy State Park, Woodward, PA 2023

Ridley Creek State Park, Media, PA 2022

Poe Paddy State Park, Woodward, PA 2021

2021 and 2022 supported by the Greater Philadelphia Philosophy Consortium

Graduate student representative to faculty, Penn Philosophy Department	2022-23
Participant, Penn Normative Philosophy Group	2018-23
Co-organizer, Andrea Mitchell Center Graduate Workshop Series	2021-22
Panel organizer, “Up Against the Wall: Migration in the Biden Era” supported by the Andrea Mitchell Center for the Study of Democracy	2022
Co-organizer, “Global Justice beyond States,” MANCEPT Workshops in Political Theory	2021
Co-facilitator, Penn Public Philosophy Book Club	2021
Participant, Penn Public Philosophy Research Seminar	2020-21
Judge, Philadelphia Ethics Bowl	2020, 2021
Mentor, PENNCAP Graduate School Mentoring Initiative	2019-20
Organizer, Penn Philosophy admitted graduate student visiting weekend	2019

Interviews and press

Member Interview, Blog of the American Philosophical Association	2022
“Nationalism in Times of Crisis,” interview with <i>Omnia</i>	2021

Dissertation abstract

Projects of Politics

The success or failure of our political arrangements depends on whether we can provide each other with convincing answers to the fundamental questions concerning how they are organized. These answers must make sense in terms of how we conceive of ourselves and the problems that we face. Across four essays, my dissertation examines the underappreciated consequences that this point has for political philosophy, and particularly dominant approaches to political philosophy that focus exclusively on the moral perspective. I start by defending the idea of a distinctively political domain of normativity, organized around the central value of shared political projects marked by mutually intelligible authority among their participants. I develop the thought that political power can achieve this value by addressing problems that communities take themselves to have, thus furthering common interests. I argue that this underwrites an approach to normative political concepts on which they are best understood as problem-solving tools, successful insofar as they achieve the goals of their users. The second half of the dissertation examines two central issues in global justice in light of these results. First, I consider global egalitarianism as both a moral position and political project, argue that there is a gap between the two, and lay out the elements for a political global egalitarianism based around the failure of our unequal world to address shared problems. Finally, I illustrate the problem-solving nature of political concepts by arguing that self-determination is best understood as a tool for opposing inter-group power hierarchies that fail to make sense to their subjects. I draw out one important consequence of this: self-determination’s connection to the exclusion of migrants is considerably weakened, especially in cases involving wealthy and powerful states.

References

Kok-Chor Tan
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Samuel Freeman
Emeritus Avalon Professor in the Humanities
University of Pennsylvania
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Errol Lord
Associate Professor of Philosophy
University of Pennsylvania
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Loren Goldman
Assistant Professor of Political Theory
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Sukaina Hirji (teaching)
Assistant Professor of Philosophy
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