

DANIEL WEBBER

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AREAS OF INTEREST

AOS: Ethics • Metaethics

AOC: AI & Technology Ethics • Applied Ethics (incl. Bioethics) • Political Philosophy

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Stanford University

Lecturer

Department of Philosophy 2026 –

Program for Civic, Liberal, and Global Education 2025 – 2026

Postdoctoral Fellow

McCoy Family Center for Ethics in Society; 2023 – 2025
Institute for Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence

EDUCATION

University of Pittsburgh, PhD in Philosophy 2023

Dissertation: *Let's Get Real: Counterfactual Moral Theories in the Actual World*

Committee: Japa Pallikkathayil (co-chair), Jed Lewinsohn (co-chair),
Michael Thompson, Gideon Rosen (Princeton University)

Amherst College, BA with distinction in Computer Science 2014

PUBLICATIONS

“What is a Moral Law? Ask the Normative Ethicists,” *Oxford Studies in Metaethics* *forthcoming*

“Putting Wronging First,” [*Philosophical Quarterly*](#) 75: 734–753 2025

“The Misapplication Dilemma,” [*Notus*](#) 58: 973–996 2024

IN PROGRESS

“Deeply Relational Contractualism” (committed to *Oxford Studies in Normative Ethics*,
pending final review)

IN PROGRESS, CONT.

A paper on contractualism, rule consequentialism, and conventions (under review)
A paper on the moral force of conventional rights
A paper on moral uncertainty
A paper on the limits of AI value alignment
A paper on AI, meaningful work, and meaningful lives

PRESENTATIONS

TBD

University of Nebraska–Lincoln (Invited) April 2027

“Deeply Relational Contractualism”

Arizona Workshop in Normative Ethics (WiNE) January 2026

“What is a Moral Law? Ask the Normative Ethicists”

Madison Metaethics Workshop (MadMeta) September 2025

“How to Decide When You Don’t Know How to Decide”

Washington University in St. Louis (Invited) January 2025

“Conventional Rights and the Improvement Problem”

Eastern APA, New York January 2025

PPE Society, New Orleans November 2024

“Contractualism and the Wrong World Problem”

Central APA, New Orleans February 2024

“Ideal Code, Real Conventions”

Stanford Political Theory Workshop (Invited) October 2023

COMMENTS

Yuan Yuan, “Norm-Required Rights Infringements and Combat Moral Injury”

Stanford Political Theory Workshop April 2025

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

University of Pittsburgh:

Michael R. Bennett Essay Prize in Philosophy 2023
for “Contractualism and the Wrong World Problem”

Pre-Doctoral Mellon Fellowship 2016 – 2017

2019 – 2020

2020 – 2021

TEACHING

Graduate (Stanford):

Contractualism	Fall 2026
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Undergraduate/Graduate (Stanford):

Ethical Theory	Spring 2027
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Undergraduate (Stanford):

Introduction to Moral Philosophy	Spring 2027
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Citizenship in the 21 st Century	Winter 2026 & 2027
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Is Morality a Sham?	Fall 2026
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Environmental Sustainability	Spring 2026
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co-taught with Jennifer Daly, Will Barnett, and Chris Field

Why College? Your Education and the Good Life	Fall 2025
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co-taught with Jennifer Daly

Undergraduate (University of Pittsburgh):

Introduction to Ethics	Summer 2020
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Philosophy and Public Issues (<i>Teaching Assistant</i>)	Spring 2019
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Philosophy of Mind (<i>Teaching Assistant</i>)	Fall 2018
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Introduction to Logic (<i>Teaching Assistant</i>)	Spring 2018
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Political Philosophy (<i>Teaching Assistant</i>)	Fall 2017
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Embedded Ethics (Stanford):

Machine Learning from Human Preferences	Fall 2024
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Reinforcement Learning	Spring 2024 & Winter 2025
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Introduction to Game Design	Spring 2025
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Design and Analysis of Algorithms	Fall & Winter 2023–24 & 2024–25
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Programming Methodology	Spring 2024 & 2025
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Operating Systems Principles	Spring & Fall 2024; Winter 2025
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Design for Behavior Change	Winter 2024
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Introduction to Human-Computer Interaction Design	Fall 2023 & 2024
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Probability for Computer Scientists	Fall, Winter & Spring 2023–24 & 2024–25
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ADVISING

Second reader, Ethics in Society Honors Thesis (Stanford)	2024
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INVITED GUEST TEACHING

“Value Alignment in Artificial Intelligence”

in *COSC-227: Neural Safety Net*, Amherst College

December 2025

This lecture also has thousands of views on [Youtube](#) as part of an online course through Stanford.

SERVICE

University of Pittsburgh:

Graduate Technology and Web Administrator	2018 – 2021
Ethics Search Committee	2019
Referee, Pitt-CMU Graduate Conference	2019, 2020
Lead Graduate Organizer, Prospective Student Visit	2017

Referee for *Acta Analytica*

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

Research Assistant to Robert Brandom 2022 – 2023

- Developed software to simulate reasoning in non-monotonic logic

Research Assistant to Japa Pallikkathayil Summer 2020

SOFTWARE EMPLOYMENT

Software Engineer, 1stDibs, New York, NY 2015 – 2016

Software Engineer, FactSet Research Systems, Norwalk, CT 2014 – 2015

REFERENCES

Gideon Rosen
Stuart Professor of Philosophy
Princeton University
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Japa Pallikkathayil
Associate Professor of Philosophy
University of Pittsburgh
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Leif Wenar
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Jed Lewinsohn
Associate Professor of Philosophy
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Stephen Engstrom (teaching reference – letter covers both Pitt and Stanford)
Distinguished Professor of Philosophy
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