

SAMUEL DISHAW

Caldwell Hall
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EMPLOYMENT

Teaching Assistant Professor of Philosophy & Core Faculty in PPE, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2023–

EDUCATION

Harvard University, PhD in Philosophy, 2023
University of Montreal, M.A. in Philosophy, 2016
University of Edinburgh, Visiting Research Scholar, 2015
University of Montreal, B.A. in Philosophy, 2014
Albert Ludwigs University Freiburg, Visiting Student, 2013

DISSERTATION

Title: *Understanding Morality Together*
Committee: Selim Berker (chair), Christine Korsgaard, Susanna Rinard, John Bengson

Thinking about morality is hard. Why should we have to understand for ourselves what morality requires, when we might rely instead on the judgment of those who know better? I defend a surprisingly neglected answer to this question: because we owe it to each other to understand, together, what morality requires of us. In the course of defending this view, I make progress on a number of closely related topics, including the demands of solidarity, the success conditions of apology and interpersonal justification, and the source of moral reasons.

Areas of Specialization: Normative Ethics, Social & Political Philosophy, Moral Psychology, Epistemology.

Areas of Competence: Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, Bioethics, Metaethics, Post-Kantian European Philosophy.

PUBLICATIONS

“Solidarity and the Work of Moral Understanding,” *Philosophical Quarterly*, forthcoming

IN PREPARATION

“Getting Told and Being Understood” (provisionally forthcoming in *Philosophical Issues*)

“The Object of Moral Understanding” (*R&R, Ergo*)

“Moral Understanding Between You and Me” (under review)

“Puzzlement as a Guide to Understanding” (under review)

“The Puzzle of Lucky Right Action (under review)

“The Moral Relationship”

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

FRQ Postdoctoral Fellowship (Quebec Research Fund), 2023–25

Project: “The Ethics and Epistemology of Interpersonal Understanding”. Held at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Harvard University, 2023

Bowen Prize, Harvard University, 2022

Annually awarded for the best essay in moral or political philosophy. Received for “Solidarity and the Work of Moral Understanding”

Graduate Fellowship, Edmond & Lily Safra Center for Ethics, 2020-21

SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship (Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada), 2016-2020

Certificate of Excellence in Teaching (x2), Harvard University, 2018, 2019.

FRQ Master’s Fellowship, 2015-16

SSHRC Mater’s Fellowship, 2014-15

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

* refereed

“Getting Told and Being Understanding”

Ethics and Epistemology Workshop, University of Helsinki, 2023*

“Solidarity and the Work of Moral Understanding”

UNC PPE Workshop, 2023

Northwestern Society for the Theory of Ethics and Politics, 2023*

“The Moral Relationship”

Neuchâtel University Philosophy Colloquium, 2023

“Moral Understanding Between You and Me”

Humboldt-Southampton Normativity Conference, University of Humboldt, 2022*

British Society for Ethical Theory Graduate Conference, 2021*

Manchester Political Theory Workshop on Recognition, 2021*

Moral Psychology and Rationality Workshop, University of Copenhagen, 2021*

“Puzzlement as a Guide to Understanding”

Inquiry Work-in-Progress Network, online, April 2022*

Syracuse Graduate Philosophy Conference, April 2021*

“The Puzzle of Lucky Right Action”

Humboldt-Southampton Normativity Conference, University of Southampton, 2019*

Tulane Philosophy Graduate Conference, 2019*

University of Pennsylvania Graduate Speaker Series, 2018

“The Epistemic Significance of Grasping”

Edinburgh Epistemology Graduate Conference, 2017*

New Trends in Epistemology, University of Pavia, 2017*

TEACHING

Primary Instructor, UNC-Chapel Hill

Ethics, Politics, and Technology, Fall 2023

Bioethics, Fall 2023

Embedded Ethics Lecturer, Harvard

[In this program, I created and taught lectures that were tailored to the computer science courses within which they were embedded.]

“Democracy, Ignorance, and Power Over Others” (Spring 2021)

“Ethical Reasoning in AI for Social Impact” (Spring 2021)

“Moral Responsibility and Social Networks” (Spring 2021)

“The Ethics of Data Visualization” (Fall 2020)

“Permissible Defense Against Neural Fake News” (Fall 2020)

“Fair Queuing” (Fall 2020)

Teaching Assistant, Harvard

The Art of Living (instructor: Samantha Matherne), Spring 2020
Saints, Heretics, and Atheists (instructor: Jeff McDonough), Spring 2019
Inequality, (instructor: Lucas Stanczyk), Fall 2018

ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE

At Harvard:

Rights Workshop, co-organizer (with Daniel Muñoz and Joseph Bowen), 2019, 2021
Mental Health Coordinator, 2019-20
Harvard-MIT Philosophy Graduate Conference, co-organizer, 2018, 2019
Readings Groups:

Moral Psychology, Organizer, 2021-22
Moral and Aesthetic Testimony, Organizer, 2020
Relational Normativity, Participant, 2019-20
Moral Ignorance, Organizer, 2018-19

To the Profession:

Referee for: *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Journal of Moral Philosophy*

LANGUAGES

French (native)
German (intermediate)

GRADUATE COURSEWORK

* audited

**Bernard Williams*, Richard Moran
**Beccausal Relations*, Selim Berker
**Risk in Law and Society* (Princeton), Lara Buchak, Johann Frick and Renee Jorgensen
**Normative Categories*, Selim Berker
**The Good*, Christine Korsgaard
History of Modern Moral Philosophy, Christine Korsgaard
Modal Logic, Mark Richard
**Ethics of Climate Change* (MIT), Casper Hare and Kieran Setiya
**Killing and Letting Die in Public Policy*, Frances Kamm
Topics in Political Philosophy, Lucas Stanczyk
**Kant's Ethical Theory*, Christine Korsgaard
**Bioethics*, Frances Kamm
Medieval Philosophy, Jeffrey McDonough
Norms of Belief, Selim Berker and Susanna Rinard

Method, Essence and Intuition in Metaethics, John Bengson
Explanation, Edward Hall and Brad Skow
Egalitarianism, Gina Schouten
Practical Reasons, Jeff Behrends
**Speech Acts*, Richard Moran
Understanding, John Bengson
Hume's Ethical Theory, Christine Korsgaard

REFERENCES

Selim Berker (*dissertation committee chair*)
Alford Professor of Philosophy, Harvard University
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Christine Korsgaard
Arthur Kingsley Porter Research Professor, Harvard University
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Susanna Rinard
Professor of Philosophy, Harvard University
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Jeff Behrends (*teaching*)
Senior Research Scholar in Philosophy, Harvard University
jbehrends@fas.harvard.edu