

# Timothy Sommers

724-900-4799

[tsommers@wm.edu](mailto:tsommers@wm.edu)

## AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

-Social and Political Philosophy  
-Applied Ethics  
-Philosophy of Law

## AREAS OF COMPETENCE

-Normative Ethics  
-Meta-Ethics  
-Epistemology

## CURRENT ROLE:

**Visiting Assistant Teaching Professor**

The College of William & Mary | Ethics, Applied Ethics, Philosophy of Law

## EDUCATION

### University of Iowa

**Ph.D., Philosophy | December 2022**

2022 Graduate College Post-Comprehensive Research Fellowship

2021-2020 Graduate Teaching Fellow (One of four at the University of Iowa)

### Brown University

**M.A., Philosophy | June 1993**

1990-1993 Brown University | All-University Fellow

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### VISITING ASSISTANT TEACHING PROFESSOR

8/2023- The College of William & Mary | Ethics, Applied Ethics, Philosophy of Law  
Current

### ADJUNCT ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Spring 2023 The University of Iowa | Introduction to Philosophy

### INSTRUCTOR

2022-2019 The University of Iowa | Ethics, Introduction to Philosophy (Online)

1992 Georgetown University | Political Philosophy, Philosophy of Law

### ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

1998-1994 Louisiana State University | Ethics, Political Philosophy, Philosophy of Law

## TEACHING and PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2024 Teaching & Learning Symposium on Generative AI, William & Mary

2021-2020 Graduate Teaching Fellow (One of four at the University of Iowa)

2020 Teaching as Research (TAR), "Does the Ordering of Different Types of Questions Influence Student Performance?" *UI Center for Teaching, Learning & Technology*

2019 Associate Certificate, University of Iowa, *Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching & Learning* (CIRTL)

## PUBLICATIONS/SUBMISSIONS: PEER REVIEWED

2025 Sommers, T. "Relational Egalitarianism and the 'No Relations' Argument, A Reply to Critics" under review.

2024 Sommers, T. "Range Egalitarianism: A Novel Principle of Distributive Fairness," under review.

2023 Sommers, T. "[Can There be Relational Equality Across Generations? Or at All?](#)" *Res Publica*, volume 29, April 14, 2023, pp. 469-481.

2021 Sommers, T., "[Relational Egalitarianism is Not About Egalitarian Relationships](#)," *Public Philosophy Blog of the APA*. (Invited).

## PRESENTATIONS

- 2026 Sommers, T. "Comment on 'The Materiality of Justice: Correcting Incorporal Distributive Ethics.'" **Central APA**
- 2025 Sommers, T. "Relational Egalitarianism & Distributive Fairness," Colloquium, **Eastern APA**, November 7, 2025.
- 2025 Sommers, T. "How We Owe the Future," **Association for Political Theory Conference**, November 22, 2024.
- 2024 Sommers, T. "A New Form of Distributive Egalitarianism," **Association for Political Theory Conference**, November 22, 2024.
- 2024 Sommers, T., Led a Panel on "Democracy in Polarized Times," **Association for Political Theory Conference**, November 21, 2024
- 2021 "Is Intergenerational Justice a Problem for Relational Egalitarianism?" Colloquium, **Eastern APA**
- 2020 "The Right Critique of Ideal Theory: Ideality, Modeling, and the Behavioral Asymmetry Objection," Colloquium, **Central APA**
- 2020 "Would It Be Better If There Were More of You?" **University of Iowa Faculty Colloquium**, Voted Featured Salon Paper of the Year
- 2019 "Self-Ownership or Basic Liberties?" Colloquium, **Eastern APA**

## PUBLICATIONS: DIGITAL/PUBLIC-FACING

Present-Monthly columnist with 85 columns receiving 10-20k page views a month for

- 2018 [3 Quarks Daily](#) a premier website for Science, Arts, Philosophy, Politics and Literature

### Sample columns include:

- 2023 ["Counterfeit People"/ "Dennett Deux"](#) (Exchange with D. Dennett)
- 2022 ["The Ethics of Black Box AI"](#) (AI Ethics)
- 2020 ["This Title Only Appears to Convey Information"](#) (Free Speech/Internet/Law)
- 2018 ["Two Sources of Objectivity in Ethics"](#) (Ethics/Metaethics)

## APPLIED PHILOSOPHY | DIGITAL PROJECTS

- 2021 Sommers, T., Assessing Assessment: Evidence Based and Nontraditional Approaches to Grading (*Office for Teaching, Learning, & Technology*)
- 2019 With Bhandary, A. et al. [Surviving the Indifferents](#) an ethics video game

## SERVICE WORK

- 8-2025- Ethics Bowl Coach, William & Mary (informal coaching 2023-2024)  
Current
- 2024- Moot Court Judge, William & Mary Law School  
Current
- 2020-2019 Research Assistant, University of Iowa, contributed to creating a **Graduate Certificate in Ethics** with professors Jovana Davidovic and Ali Hasan

## PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- 2023-  
Current The Association for Political Theory (APT)
- 2017-  
Current American Philosophical Association (APA)