

## Troy Seagraves | Curriculum Vitae

Ph.D., Purdue University

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**Areas of Specialization:** Ethics, Epistemology

**Areas of Competence:** Applied Ethics, Philosophy of Religion

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### Education

Purdue University (2018-2024)

Ph.D. in Philosophy, defended March 6<sup>th</sup> 2024

*Committee:* Patrick Kain (advisor), Michael Bergmann,  
Paul Draper, Chris Tucker (William & Mary)

*Dissertation:* “Axiological Stances: Psychological, Normative, and Divine”

*Abstract:* This dissertation examines intrapersonal and interpersonal conflicts that arise in virtue of agents’ axiological stances. Inspired by literature on stances in epistemology and philosophy of science, I provide a novel account of axiological stances and apply them in three ways. Comprised of three chapters, the first, “Axiological stances and Hard Choices” provides my account of the psychological side of axiological stances and how they influence the ways in which agents value things. This chapter argues that intrapersonal conflicts of these stances can explain the difficulty of choices where an agent feels torn between the available options. The second chapter, “Axiological Stance Permissivism in Winch,” focuses on the normative side of axiological stances, drawing from the work of Peter Winch and epistemic permissivists. There, I show that Winch’s view (commonly labelled as an ethical relativism) can be plausible and compatible with a moral realism. The final chapter argues that God has agent-relative facts akin to an axiological stance that function as modifiers. God, then, has some power over what reasons end up being his sufficient reasons, overcoming a common complaint that God is objectionably mechanical.

Northern Illinois University (2016-2018)

M.A. in Philosophy

The Ohio State University (2012-2016)

B.A. in Philosophy

### Employment

August 2024-present – Visiting Instructor. Purdue University Cornerstone Integrated Liberal Arts Program.

### Publications

Forthcoming – “Self-Hatred and Shame,” *Philosophical Psychology*. Doi:  
[10.1080/09515089.2025.2484383](https://doi.org/10.1080/09515089.2025.2484383)

2025 – “The Normative Significance of God’s Self,” *Phil Studies*. Doi:  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11098-024-02278-5>

2023 - “Permissivism and Intellectual Virtue,” *Inquiry: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Philosophy*. Doi:  
[10.1080/0020174X.2023.2253291](https://doi.org/10.1080/0020174X.2023.2253291).

### Articles Under Review

“Axiological Stances and Hard Choices” (R&R)

“Video Game-Based Pedagogy in the Philosophy Classroom”

## Selected Talks

- 2025: "High Scores and Student Achievement," American Philosophical Association Eastern Meeting, New York, New York. January 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>.
- 2024: "Self-Hatred's Shameful Roots," Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Cincinnati, Ohio, March 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024.
- 2024: "Comments on 'Absolutist AI,'" American Philosophical Association Central Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, February 21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- 2023: "Self-Hatred's Shameful Roots," Purdue Graduate Student Symposium, West Lafayette, Indiana. October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- 2023: "A Significant Moral Permissivism," American Philosophical Association Central Meeting, Denver, Colorado. February 22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- 2023: "Pluralistic Valuing and Hard Choices," American Philosophical Association Eastern Meeting, Montreal, Canada. January 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- 2022: "God's Reasons for Mercy," The Society of Christian Philosophers Midwest Conference, Bowling Green, Ohio. November 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
- 2022: "God's Caring and Evil," "The Problem of Evil" 2022 PGSA Conference at Saint Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri. October 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
- 2022: "The Normative Significance of God's Self," Sixth Theistic Ethics Workshop, Williamsburg, Virginia. September 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022.
- 2022: "Pluralistic Valuing and Hard Choices," Ohio Philosophical Association 2022 Meeting, Akron, Ohio. April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022.
- 2021: "Intellectual Character and Permissivism," Notre Dame and Northwestern Epistemology Conference, held virtually. April 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- 2021: "Intellectual Character and Permissivism," Syracuse University Graduate Conference, held virtually. April 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021.
- 2019: "Chastity as an Intellectual Virtue," Christopher Newport University Ethics Conference: 'Is there Still a Secular Virtue of Chastity?' Newport News, Virginia. March 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, 2019.
- 2019: "Aristotelian Constructivism and Public Reason," Kent State Graduate Conference, Kent, Ohio. March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019.
- 2018: "Aristotelian Constructivism and Public Reason," Northwestern University Society for the Theory of Ethics and Politics, Evanston, Illinois. March 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

## Teaching

### *As Instructor of Record*

- Fall 2024: Instructor of Record, *Critical Thinking & Communication II: Modern World*, College of Liberal Arts, Purdue University (x4).
- Spring 2023: Instructor of Record, *I Play Therefore I am: Introduction to Philosophy Through Video Games*, Department of Philosophy, Purdue University.
- Fall 2021: Instructor of Record, *Global Moral Issues*, Department of Philosophy, Purdue University.
- Spring 2021: Instructor of Record, *Global Moral Issues*, Department of Philosophy, Purdue University.
- Fall 2020: Instructor of Record, *Global Moral Issues*, Department of Philosophy, Purdue University.
- Spring 2020: Instructor of Record, *Global Moral Issues*, Department of Philosophy, Purdue University.
- Fall 2019: Instructor of Record, *Global Moral Issues*, Department of Philosophy, Purdue University.

### *Guest Lectures*

“Mill’s *On Liberty*” given for *Introduction to Ethical Theory*. Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Primary Instructor: Patrick Kain.

“Virtue Ethics” given for *Introduction to Philosophy through Video Games*. July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Primary Instructor: Jashiel Resto-Quinones.

#### *As Graduate Teaching Assistant/Grader*

Spring 2024: Teaching Assistant, *I Play Therefore I am: Introduction to Philosophy Through Video Games*, Department of Philosophy, Purdue University. Primary Instructor: Brett Karlan.

Fall 2023: Teaching Assistant, *I Play Therefore I am: Introduction to Philosophy Through Video Games*, Department of Philosophy, Purdue University. Primary Instructor: Javier Gomez-Lavin.

Spring 2023: Grader, *Introduction to Jewish Studies*, Jewish Studies Department, Purdue University. Primary Instructor: Olga Lyanda-Geller.

Summer 2020: Grader, *The Big Questions: Introduction to Philosophy*, Department of Philosophy, Purdue University. Primary Instructor: Samantha Seybold.

Spring 2018: Teaching assistant, *Philosophy of Law*, Department of Philosophy, Northern Illinois University. Primary Instructor: John Beaudoin.

Fall 2017: Teaching Assistant, *Contemporary Issues in Ethics*, Department of Philosophy, Northern Illinois University. Primary Instructor: Jason Hanna.

### **Awards and Assistantships**

Research Assistantship – Designing and Managing Purdue’s Virtual Reality and Artificial Intelligence (VRAI) lab (Summer 2023)

Purdue University Teaching Academy Graduate Teaching Award (Spring 2023)

Saul Lerner Graduate Student Teaching Award (Spring 2023)

Ross Lynn Research Assistantship (Spring 2022-Fall 2022)

Ross Fellowship (Fall 2018- Summer 2019)

### **Service to Department**

Spring 2025: Participant in *H-Innovate*, designing honors modules for Liberal Arts classes. See: <https://honors.purdue.edu/current-students/BlueSkyLab/h-innovate/index.php>

Fall 2023-Spring 2024: Virtual Reality and Artificial Intelligence (VRAI) Lab Manager for Purdue’s College of Liberal Arts. See: <https://www.vrai-lab.com/>

Spring 2022-Fall 2023: Head of Graduate Student Writing Group.

Fall 2020- Spring 2022: Graduate Student Representative, Department of Philosophy, Purdue University.

Fall 2017-Spring 2018: Graduate Writing Mentor, Department of Philosophy, Northern Illinois University.

### **Professional Memberships**

American Philosophical Association (2017-present)

Society of Christian Philosophers (2018-2024)

### **Grants**

Purdue PROMISE Research Grant (\$1,500), 2023.

Purdue PROMISE Research Grant (\$750), 2019.

## Graduate Courses (\* = audit)

### Ethics:

- The Moral Universe*, Spring 2024. Instructors: Patrick Kain and Eric Sampson.
- \**Seminar in Ethics: Kant's Moral and Political Philosophy*, Fall 2022. Instructors: Patrick Kain and J.P. Messina.
- \**Contemporary Ethical Theory*, Fall 2021. Instructor: Patrick Kain.
- Seminar in Ethics: Kant*, Spring 2020. Instructor: Patrick Kain.
- Ethical Theory: Consequentialism*, Spring 2018. Instructor: Steven Daskal.
- Ethical Theory: Procreation and Parenthood*, Fall 2017. Instructor: Jason Hanna.
- Ethical Theory: Metaethics*, Spring 2017. Instructor: Steven Daskal.
- Ethical Theory*, Fall 2016. Instructor: Jason Hanna.

### Metaphysics and Epistemology:

- Intuition*, Fall 2023. Instructors: Michael Bergmann and Jeffrey Brower.
- Genealogical Defeaters*, Summer 2023. Instructors: Michael Bergmann and Jeffrey Brower.
- \**Studies in Metaphysics*, Fall 2020. Instructors: Michael Bergmann and Jeffrey Brower.
- Studies in the Theory of Knowledge*, Spring 2019. Instructor: Michael Bergmann.
- Directed Reading in Metaphysics*, Spring 2019. Instructor: Jan Cover.
- Topics in Metaphysics or Epistemology: Free Will*, Fall 2017. Instructor: Alicia Finch.
- Epistemology*, Spring 2017. Instructor: Geoff Pynn.
- 20<sup>th</sup> Century Analytic Philosophy*, Spring 2017. Instructor: David Buller.
- Topics in Metaphysics or Epistemology: Personal Identity*, Fall 2016. Instructor: Carl Gillett.

### Philosophy of Religion:

- \**Advanced Philosophy of Religion*, Spring 2023. Instructor: Paul Draper.
- Divine Transcendence and Ineffability*, Spring 2023. Instructors: Michael Bergmann and Jeffrey Brower.
- Theism and Creaturely Intrinsic Value*, Fall 2022. Instructors: Michael Bergmann and Jeffrey Brower.
- Religious Disagreement*, Summer 2022. Instructors: Michael Bergmann and Jeffrey Brower.
- Advanced Philosophy of Religion*, Spring 2020. Instructors: Michael Bergmann and Paul Draper.
- Philosophy of Religion: Religious Belief*, Spring 2018. Instructor: Mylan Engel.

### Ancient Philosophy:

- \**Special Topics in Ancient Philosophy: Plato and the Immoralist*, Spring 2022. Instructor: Daniel Frank.
- \**Special Topics in Ancient Philosophy: Virtue Ethics*, Spring 2021. Instructor: Daniel Frank.
- Special Topics in Ancient Philosophy: Aristotle*, Spring 2019. Instructor: Patricia Curd.

### Modern Philosophy:

- Continental Rationalism*, Fall 2019. Instructor: Jan Cover.
- Studies in Modern Philosophy: Spinoza's Ethics*, Fall 2018. Instructor: Michael Jacovides.
- Philosophy of Kant*, Fall 2018. Instructor: Jaqueline Marina.

### Medieval Philosophy:

- Directed Reading in Philosophy: Medieval Christian Theism*, Spring 2020. Instructor: Jeffrey Brower.
- Studies in Medieval Philosophy: Powers of the Soul*, Fall 2018. Instructor: Can Laurens Lowe.

### Philosophy of Science, Language, and Logic:

- Laws and Causes*, Fall 2019. Instructor: Michael Jacovides.
- Philosophy of Language*, Fall 2019. Instructor: Rodney Bertolet.
- Philosophy of Language*, Spring 2018. Instructor: Lenny Clapp.
- Metaphysics of Science*, Fall 2017. Instructor: Carl Gillett.

*Intermediate Logic*, Fall 2016. Instructor: David Buller.

## References

**Patrick Kain** (advisor)  
Associate Professor of Philosophy  
[kain@purdue.edu](mailto:kain@purdue.edu)

**Paul Draper**  
Professor of Philosophy  
[pdraper@purdue.edu](mailto:pdraper@purdue.edu)

**Chris Tucker** (William & Mary)  
Francis S. Haserot Professor of Philosophy  
[cstucker@wm.edu](mailto:cstucker@wm.edu)

**Michael Bergmann**  
Professor of Philosophy  
[bergmann@purdue.edu](mailto:bergmann@purdue.edu)

**Chris Yeomans** (teaching letter)  
Professor of Philosophy  
[cyeomans@purdue.edu](mailto:cyeomans@purdue.edu)