

Jonathan Spelman

Curriculum Vitae

November 2017

Ohio Northern University
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Ohio Northern University, Fall 2017-present

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Philosophy, University of Colorado Boulder, 2017

Dissertation Title: *Moral Obligation, Evidence, and Belief*

Advisor: Chris Heathwood

Committee: David Boonin, Elinor Mason, Alastair Norcross, and Graham Oddie

Abstract: Objectivism about moral obligation is the view that an agent's moral obligations do not depend on her beliefs or her evidence; they depend on the facts. In my dissertation, argue that given the way we use the phrase "moral obligation" and the nature of *obligation* more generally, we should reject objectivism. Furthermore, I use the fact that unreasonably risky behavior is morally wrong to give a novel argument for the view that an agent's moral obligations depend on her beliefs.

Certificate in College Teaching, University of Colorado Boulder, 2017

M.A., Philosophy, University of Missouri–St. Louis, 2010

B.A., *summa cum laude*, Philosophy and Political Science (double major), Ashland University, 2008

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Normative Ethics (esp., moral responsibility and the nature of moral obligation)

Metaethics

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Practical Ethics (including bioethics, business ethics, environmental ethics, and professional ethics)

Philosophy of Law

Philosophy of Religion

Epistemology

AWARDS

2017 Excellence in Graduate Teaching Leadership Award, CU Boulder Graduate Teacher Program

2016 The Best Should Teach Silver Award, CU Boulder Graduate Teacher Program

PUBLICATIONS

Book Reviews

["Ignorance and Moral Obligation, written by Michael J. Zimmerman," *Journal of Moral Philosophy* 14, no. 3 \(2017\): 264-267.](#)

Work in Progress

"The Moral 'Ought' and Moral Obligation," preparing for submission

"Moral Obligation and Punishment," under review

"Against Objectivism about Moral Obligation," under review

"In Defense of Subjectivism about Moral Obligation," preparing for submission

"Is There Blameless Wrongdoing?" preparing for submission

PRESENTATIONS

Refereed

- (2018) "The Power of Personal Narrative in Introductory Ethics," American Philosophical Association's 2018 Central Division Meeting, Affiliated Group Program (American Association of Philosophy Teachers), Chicago, IL, February 21-24, 2018.
- (2018) "In Defense of Subjectivism about Moral Obligation," American Philosophical Association's 2018 Eastern Division Meeting, Main Program, Savannah, GA, January 3-6, 2018.
- 2017 "Moral Obligation and Punishment," Central States Philosophical Association's 2017 Annual Meeting, Washington University, St. Louis, MO, October 27-28, 2017.
- 2017 "Moral Obligation and Punishment," The 71st Annual Meeting of the Mountain-Plains Philosophy Conference, Weber State University, Ogden, UT, October 12-14, 2017.
- 2017 "Student Assessment in the Inclusive Classroom," CU Boulder's Graduate Teacher Program's Spring 2017 Inclusive Classroom Workshop Series, Boulder, CO, March 24, 2017.
- 2017 "Teaching Ethical Theory with Interactive Websites," American Philosophical Association's 2017 Central Division Meeting, Affiliated Group Program (American Association of Philosophy Teachers), Kansas City, MO, March 1-4, 2017.
- 2016 "Against Objectivism about Moral Obligation," American Philosophical Association's 2016 Pacific Division Meeting, Main Program, San Francisco, CA, March 30-April 3, 2016.
- 2015 "Choosing between Consequentialist Theories of Virtue," Gateway Graduate Conference: Virtue Ethics Through the Ages, University of Missouri–St. Louis, St. Louis, MO, March 6-7, 2015.
- 2014 "Consequences and Virtue," Society of Christian Philosophers' 2014 Mountain-Pacific Region Conference, Carroll College, Helena, MT, April 3-4, 2014.
- 2014 "The Original Position, the Difference Principle, and the Unborn," 11th Annual Intermountain West Student Philosophy Conference, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT, March 20-22, 2014.
- 2012 "A Critique of Zimmerman's Solution to the Problem of Moral Luck," University of Calgary Graduate Philosophy Conference, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, April 14, 2012.
- 2012 "A Defense of Phenomenal Conservatism," Southwest Graduate Conference, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, March 2-3, 2012.
- 2010 "A Theory of Objective Moral Assessment," Ohio Philosophical Association Annual Meeting, Ohio Northern University, Ada, OH, April 10, 2010.
- 2009 "Knowledge as Cognitive Achievement," 61st Annual Northwest Philosophy Conference, Pacific University, Forest Grove, OR, October 23-24, 2009.

Invited

- 2015 "Moral Luck," Colloquium Talk, Ashland University, Ashland, OH, December 1, 2015

Departmental

- 2017 "In Defense of Subjectivism about Moral Obligation," CU Boulder's Summer Seminar Talk, June 15, 2017.
- 2016 "Against Objectivism about Moral Obligation," CU Boulder's Center for Values and Social Policy Talk, March 28, 2016.
- 2015 "Moral Obligation and Blame," CU Boulder's Center for Values and Social Policy Talk, January 30, 2015.

TEACHING

Training

- 2017 American Association of Philosophy Teachers' Workshop on Inclusive Pedagogy
- 2017 Graduate Teacher Program's Consultative Learning Advancement Workshop, CU Boulder
- 2016 American Association of Philosophy Teachers' Seminar on Teaching and Learning in Philosophy
- 2016 American Association of Philosophy Teachers' 21st Biennial International Workshop-Conference
- 2016 CU Diversity on Campus Training
- 2016 Graduate Teacher Program's Lead Graduate Student Teacher Training, CU Boulder

COURSES TAUGHT

Ohio Northern University

Professional Ethics (x3)

Logic

Ashland University

Workplace Ethics (online)

CU Boulder

Introduction to Ethics (x5)

Introduction to Philosophy (x4)

Philosophy & Law (x4)

Introduction to Western Philosophy: Modern

Introductory Logic (x2)

Philosophy & Society (x2)

SERVICE

Professional

Reviewer for *Journal of Moral Philosophy*

Chair for Book Symposium on Zimmerman's *Ignorance and Moral Obligation* at the Pacific APA, 2017

Referee for the Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, 2015-2017

Referee for the Rocky Mountain (Graduate) Philosophy Conference, 2012-2014, 2016

Author of *1,000-Word Philosophy* encyclopedia entry on "[The Repugnant Conclusion](#)," 2014

Author of *1,000-Word Philosophy* encyclopedia entry on "[Moral Luck](#)," 2014

Lead organizer for the Society of Christian Philosophers' Mountain-Pacific Region Conference, 2013

Campus

Co-led the Ethics Bowl Team at Ohio Northern University, 2017

Philosophy Club talk on punishment, 2016

Philosophy and Film talk on *V for Vendetta*, 2015

Co-organized the Veritas Forum event "Science & Faith," 2015

Philosophy Club talk on population ethics, 2014

Co-organized the Veritas Forum event "Atheism & Christianity," 2013

Philosophy Club talk on moral luck, 2013

Departmental

Lead Graduate Student Teacher, 2016-2017

Organized and led a pedagogy reading group, 2017

Organized and led a teaching workshop on course preparation, 2017

Organized and led a teaching workshop on midterm feedback, 2016

Organized and moderated a teaching panel on writing exams, 2015

Community

Judged Regional High School Ethics Bowl competition, 2017

Consulted for Colorado Early Colleges Fort Collins' Ethics Bowl team, 2017

Co-taught at Cherry Creek High School on paternalism and the problem of evil, 2016

Consulted for Peak to Peak Charter School's Ethics Bowl team, 2015

Co-taught at Cherry Creek High School on paternalism, 2015

Moderated Regional Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl competition, 2014

Taught at Centaurus High School on the ethics of genetic engineering, 2014

Co-taught at Fairview High School on moral luck, 2014

Co-taught at Fairview High School on distributive justice, 2013

Co-taught at Fairview High School on free will, 2013

GRADUATE COURSEWORK

CU Boulder

Metaethics: Alastair Norcross

Well-Being: Chris Heathwood

Ethics Proseminar: Boonin, Hanna, Heathwood, Hosein, and Norcross

Epistemology: Brian Talbot

Epistemology: Rob Rupert

Personal Identity: David Barnett

Metaphysics and Epistemology Proseminar: Forbes, Hanna, Koslicki, and Tooley

Plato: Dominic Bailey

Nietzsche: Michael E. Zimmerman

University of Missouri–St. Louis

Recent Ethical Theory: John Brunero

Classical Ethical Theory: Eric Wiland

Philosophy of Law: John Brunero

Philosophy of Action: Eric Wiland

Theories of Knowledge: Brit Brogaard

Metametaphysics: Brit Brogaard

Metaphysics Proseminar: Gualtiero Piccinini

Philosophy of Science: Robert Northcott

Formal Logic: Andrew Black

Saint Louis University

Aquinas on Moral Virtue, Eleonore Stump

Hume and Reid, John Greco

REFERENCES

Chris Heathwood, Associate Professor

University of Colorado Boulder

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Elinor Mason, Senior Lecturer

The University of Edinburgh

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Alastair Norcross, Associate Professor

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