

Jonathan Spelman

Curriculum Vitae

September 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*

Dissertation Abstract: Objectivism about moral obligation is the view that an agent's moral obligations do not depend on her beliefs or her evidence. In my dissertation, I argue that given the way we use the phrase "moral obligation," the nature of *obligation* more generally, and the fact that unreasonably risky behavior is morally wrong, we should reject objectivism in favor of subjectivism, the view that an agent's moral obligations depend on her beliefs.

Dissertation Advisor: Chris Heathwood

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

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/professional ethics, and environmental ethics)

Philosophy of Law

Philosophy of Religion

Epistemology

Early Modern Philosophy

TEACHING

Awards

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

2016 GPTI Teaching Excellence Award Nominee, CU Boulder Philosophy Department

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

Presentations

(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.

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.

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)

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," under review
"Moral Obligation and Punishment," preparing for submission
"Against Objectivism about Moral Obligation," under review
"In Defense of Subjectivism about Moral Obligation," under review
"Is There Blameless Wrongdoing?" preparing for submission

PRESENTATIONS

Refereed

- (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.
- 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," Philosophy, Virtue, and Personhood: A Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, IL, April 11-12, 2014.
- 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.
- 2011 “Moral Luck and Counterfactual Assessment,” Stephen L. Weber Graduate Conference in Ethics, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA, April 22–24, 2011.
- 2010 “A Theory of Objective Moral Assessment,” Ohio Philosophical Association Annual Meeting, Ohio Northern University, Ada, OH, April 10, 2010.
- 2010 “Virtue Epistemology and the Problem of Environmental Luck,” American Philosophical Association’s 2010 Pacific Division Meeting, Affiliated Group Program (Society for Student Philosophers), San Francisco, CA, March 31-April 3, 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.

SERVICE

Professional

- 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

- 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 led a microteaching session, 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
(303) 735-0450
heathwood@colorado.edu

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The University of Edinburgh
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Alastair Norcross, Associate Professor
University of Colorado Boulder
(303) 735-3034
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Robert Pasnau, Professor, Teaching Reference
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