

Jonathan Spelman

*Curriculum Vitae*

January 2019

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## **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Ohio Northern University, 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., consequentialism, moral responsibility, & the nature of moral obligation)  
Metaethics

## **AREAS OF COMPETENCE**

Practical Ethics (including bioethics, business ethics, food ethics, environmental ethics, & professional ethics)

Philosophy of Law

Epistemology

Philosophy of Religion

Early Modern Philosophy

Critical Thinking/Logic

## **AWARDS**

2018 A.W. Mellon Fellow in Technology-Enhanced Learning, Carnegie Mellon University

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**

"In Defense of Subjectivism about Moral Obligation"

"The Moral 'Ought' and Moral Obligation"

"Moral Obligation and Punishment"

"Against Objectivism about Moral Obligation"

"A Prisoner's Dilemma Game for Professional Ethics Courses"

## PRESENTATIONS

### Refereed

- 2019 “Moral Obligation and Punishment,” American Philosophical Association’s 2019 Eastern Division Meeting, Poster Session, New York, NY, January 7-10, 2019.
- 2018 “The Moral ‘Ought’ and Moral Obligation,” 2018 Annual Meeting of the Ohio Philosophical Association, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH, April 7, 2018.
- 2018 “In Defense of Subjectivism about Moral Obligation,” 2018 Great Lakes Philosophy Conference, Siena Heights University, Adrian, MI, April 6-8, 2018.
- 2018 “The Moral ‘Ought’ and Moral Obligation,” Spring 2018 Meeting of the West Virginia Philosophical Association, Ashland University, Ashland, Ohio, March 16-17, 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.
- 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.

### Public

- 2018 “Is It Wrong to Eat Meat?” Ohio Northern University, Ada, OH, April 23, 2018.

### Invited

- 2015 “Moral Luck,” Colloquium Talk, Ashland University, Ashland, OH, December 1, 2015.

### Departmental

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

## TEACHING

### Refereed Presentations

- 2019 “A Game for Teaching the Tragedy of the Commons in Environmental Ethics,” American Philosophical Association’s 2019 Eastern Division Meeting, Affiliated Group Program (American Association of Philosophy Teachers), New York, NY, January 7-10, 2019.

- 2018 “A Prisoner’s Dilemma Game for Professional Ethics Courses” (with Pat Croskery), American Association of Philosophy Teacher’s Twenty-Second Workshop-Conference on Teaching Philosophy, North Carolina A&T State University, Greensboro, NC, July 25-29, 2018.
- 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.

### **Invited Presentations**

- 2019 “Ethics Bowl and the 3 Cs” (with Pat Croskery and Mark Dixon), 2019 KEEN National Conference, Dallas, TX, January 3-5, 2019.
- 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.

### **Workshop Participation**

- 2018 Designing Quality Online Courses, Ohio Northern University
- 2018 A.W. Mellon Technology-Enhanced Learning Workshop, Carnegie Mellon University
- 2017 American Association of Philosophy Teachers’ Workshop on Inclusive Pedagogy, Indiana University
- 2017 Graduate Teacher Program’s Consultative Learning Advancement Workshop, CU Boulder
- 2016 American Association of Philosophy Teachers’ Seminar on Teaching and Learning in Philosophy, Grand Valley State University
- 2016 CU Diversity on Campus Training, CU Boulder
- 2016 Graduate Teacher Program’s Lead Graduate Student Teacher Training, CU Boulder

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

### **Ohio Northern University**

- Environmental Ethics (x1)
- Food Ethics (x2)
- Professional Ethics (x7)
- Logic (x2)

### **Ashland University**

- Workplace Ethics (online) (x1)

### **CU Boulder**

- Introduction to Ethics (x5)
- Introduction to Philosophy (x4)
- Philosophy & Law (x4)
- Introduction to Western Philosophy: Modern (x1)
- Introductory Logic (x2)
- Philosophy & Society (x2)

## **SERVICE**

### **Professional**

- Reviewer for *Journal of Moral Philosophy*, 2017-
- 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 1000-Word *Philosophy* entry on “[The Repugnant Conclusion](#),” 2014
- Author of 1000-Word *Philosophy* entry on “[Moral Luck](#),” 2014
- Lead organizer for the Society of Christian Philosophers’ Mountain-Pacific Region Conference, 2013

## **Campus**

Co-coach of Ohio Northern University's Ethics Bowl Team, 2017-present  
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 of Philosophy*  
University of Colorado Boulder  
(303) 735-0450  
[heathwood@colorado.edu](mailto:heathwood@colorado.edu)

Elinor Mason, *Senior Lecturer (equivalent to Associate Professor of Philosophy)*  
The University of Edinburgh  
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