

Jonathan Spelman

*Curriculum Vitae*

August 2020

Ohio Northern University

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### **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Ohio Northern University, 2019-

Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Ohio Northern University, 2017-2019

### **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**

Applied Ethics (esp., environmental ethics)

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

Metaethics

### **AREAS OF COMPETENCE**

Philosophy of Law

Political Philosophy

Epistemology

Philosophy of Religion

Early Modern Philosophy

Critical Thinking/Logic

### **AWARDS**

2019 RoME Animal Ethics Prize for the best paper on animal ethics at the Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress

2019 Outstanding Teaching Faculty Award, The Getty College of Arts and Sciences Student Advisory Board, Ohio Northern University

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**

### **Journal Articles**

- (2020) “Against Eating Humanely-Raised Meat: Revisiting Fred’s Basement,” *Journal of Animal Ethics*, forthcoming.

### **Textbook Chapters**

- 2019 “Environmental Ethics and Climate Change,” *Introduction to Ethics: An Open Educational Resource*, edited by Noah Levin, N.G.E. Far Press, 2019, pp. 98-103.  
<https://www.ngefarpress.com/2019/05/introduction-to-ethics-open-educational.html>.

### **Book Reviews**

- 2017 “*Ignorance and Moral Obligation*, written by Michael J. Zimmerman,” *Journal of Moral Philosophy* 14, no. 3 (2017): 264-267. Brill, doi: <https://doi.org/10.1163/17455243-01403005>.

### **Work in Progress**

- “Consequentialist Theories of Virtue”  
 “In Defense of Subjectivism about Moral Obligation”  
 “Moral Obligation and Sanctions”  
 “On Wages for Tipped Workers: Some Bad Arguments and a Good One”  
 “The Moral ‘Ought’ and Moral Obligation”

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **Refereed Presentations**

- 2020\* “Moral Obligation and Sanctions,” 2020 Annual Meeting of the Ohio Philosophical Association, Akron University, Akron, OH, April 18, 2020. (cancelled due to Covid-19)
- 2020\* “On Wages for Tipped Workers: Some Bad Arguments and a Good One,” 2020 Great Lakes Philosophy Conference, Siena Heights University, Adrian, MI, April 3-5, 2020. (cancelled due to Covid-19)
- 2019 “In Defense of Subjectivism about Moral Obligation,” 2019 Illinois Philosophical Association Conference, Illinois State University, Normal, IL, November 8-9, 2019.
- 2019 “Against Eating Humanely-Raised Meat: Revisiting Fred’s Basement,” Fall 2019 Meeting of the West Virginia Philosophical Association, Ashland, OH, October 25-26, 2019.
- 2019 “Against Eating Humanely-Raised Meat: Revisiting Fred’s Basement,” 2019 Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, CO, August 8-11, 2019.
- 2019 “Consequentialist Theories of Virtue,” 2019 Annual Meeting of the Ohio Philosophical Association, Wittenberg University, Springfield, OH, April 13, 2019.
- 2019 “Against Eating Humanely-Raised Meat: Revisiting Fred’s Basement,” 2019 Great Lakes Philosophy Conference, Siena Heights University, Adrian, MI, April 5-7, 2019.
- 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.
- 2014 "Consequences and Virtue," Society of Christian Philosophers' 2014 Mountain-Pacific Region Conference, Carroll College, Helena, MT, April 3-4, 2014.
- 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 Presentations**

- 2019 "A Workshop on Ethics for Engineers" (with Mark Dixon), Marathon Petroleum Corporation, Findlay, OH, March 15, 2019.
- 2018 "Is It Wrong to Eat Meat?" Ohio Northern University, Ada, OH, April 23, 2018.

### **Invited Presentations**

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

## **TEACHING**

### **Refereed Presentations**

- 2020\* "The Case for Casuistry: Teaching Analogical Reasoning in Applied Ethics Courses," American Association of Philosophy Teacher's Twenty-Third Workshop-Conference on Teaching Philosophy, Otterbein University, Westerville, OH, July 22-25, 2020. (cancelled due to Covid-19)
- 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**

- 2020 “Teaching Ethics and the Entrepreneurial Mindset,” Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ, March 3, 2020.
- 2019 “Ethics Bowl and the 3 Cs” (with Patrick 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**

- 2020 American Association of Philosophy Teachers’ Digital Workshop on Anti-Racist Pedagogy
- 2020 American Association of Philosophy Teachers’ Digital Workshop on Pandemic Pedagogy
- 2020 Spring Pedagogy Workshop, Center for the Advancement of Faculty Excellent, Ohio Northern University
- 2019 Innovating Curriculum with Entrepreneurial Mindset, Kern Entrepreneurial Engineering Network
- 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 (x3)
- Ethics, Justice and Law (x2)
- Food Ethics (x6)
- Philosophy of Law (x2)
- Political Philosophy (x1)
- Professional Ethics (x12)
- Logic (x3)

### **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 *The Journal of Philosophy*, 2020

Reviewer for *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, 2020

Member of the American Association of Philosophy Teachers' Lenssen Prize Committee, 2019-2020

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, 2019

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

Author of *1000-Word Philosophy* entry titled "The Repugnant Conclusion," 2014

<https://1000wordphilosophy.com/2014/08/04/the-repugnant-conclusion/>

Author of *1000-Word Philosophy* entry titled "Moral Luck," 2014

<https://1000wordphilosophy.com/2014/05/08/moral-luck/>

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

### University

Facilitator, Faculty Learning Community, 2020-

Member, Steering Committee for the Ethics minor, 2020-

Member, Steering Committee for the Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) major, 2019-

Co-organized the Veritas Forum event at CU Boulder titled "Science & Faith," 2015

Co-organized the Veritas Forum event at CU Boulder titled "Atheism & Christianity," 2013

### College

Member, Steering Committee for the School for the Humanities and Global Cultures, 2019-

### Departmental

Co-coach of Ohio Northern University's Ethics Bowl Team, 2017-

CU Boulder Lead Graduate Student Teacher, 2016-2017

### Community

ACE Day Volunteer, 2018, 2019

Relay for Life, Pie-a-professor, 2018, 2019

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

## REFERENCES

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