

Joshua Kissel

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Employment and Affiliations

- 2023-Present Postdoctoral Scholar, University of Central Florida, Orlando
Institutional Transformation: Intersections of Moral Foundations and Ethics
Frameworks in STEM Enculturation (NSF Funded Project)
- 2021-2023 Instructor, Phillips Academy, Andover, MA
Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies

Education

Areas of Specialization

Social and Political Philosophy, Ethics, Applied Ethics, Philosophy of Education

Areas of Competence

Animal and Environmental Philosophy, Feminist Philosophy, History of Modern Political
Philosophy (including Marx and Analytic Marxism)

2021 Ph.D. in Philosophy, Northwestern University

Dissertation: “Realizing Social Freedom: Exit, Democracy, and an Egalitarian Ethos” | Abstract: This dissertation defends a novel account of *social freedom*, understood as the robust absence of socially remediable constraints. On this view, one is free to the extent that one is not subject to a constraint or inability that could be alleviated by another agent. I then show how social freedom can be effectively realized via a set of three social ideals: strong exit opportunities, democracy in collective institutions, and egalitarian informal norms. These ideals help us—whether as individuals or collectives—chart a path toward a more widespread realization of freedom. | Committee: Kyla Ebels-Duggan (chair), Cristina Lafont, Laura Valentini, and Stephen White (1983-2021)

- 2019 Visiting Scholar, London School of Economics, Centre for Philosophy of Natural
and Social Science, Lent and Summer Terms

2016 M.A. in Philosophy, Northwestern University

2013 B.A. Philosophy and History, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Graduated With Honors

Certificates in Environmental Studies and in European Studies

Honors Thesis: “On the Duty to Befriend Norman Bates; Egalitarianism, Consequentialism, and Friendship”

Languages:

English: Native

Spanish: Intermediate

Publications

2025 Nikolaidis, A.C., Beever, J., **Kissel, J.** *et al.* The moral limits of professional ethics enculturation. *International Journal of Ethics Education* (2025). [[Link](#)]

2021 **Kissel, J.**, Why Adequacy Isn't Enough: Educational Justice, Positional Goods and Class Power. *Journal of Philosophy of Education* 55 (2):287-301. [[Link](#)]

2017 **Kissel, J.**, Effective Altruism and Anti-Capitalism: An Attempt at Reconciliation. *Essays in Philosophy* 18 (1):68-90 [[Link](#)]

Manuscripts Submitted for Review

2025 **Kissel, J.** A. C. Nikolaidis, J. Beever *et al.* Value Diversity and Common Goods: Students as Source and Subject in Ethics Education and Enculturation [[Link](#)]

2025 **Kissel, J.**, Lottery and the Justification of Democracy: Why Democrats Need More Than Equality [[Link](#)]

Presentations *notes the presentation or attendance was refereed

2025 “Is Capitalist Environmentalism an Oxymoron? – Understanding the Eco-Socialist Critique of Capitalism”
Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society at University of Central Florida – April 2

- 2025 a) “Ethics Education, Enculturation, and Diverse Recruitment – The Importance of Input and Output”
b) “What Does It Mean to “Acquire” Values?” Panel Discussion
c) “Opening The Black Box of Ethics Enculturation: What Faculty and Student Perspectives Reveal About the Way in Which Professional Values Emerge”
34th Annual APPE International Conference – Norfolk, VA February 20-23*
- 2024 “Ethics Education, Enculturation, and Diverse Recruitment – The Importance of Input and Output”*
50th Annual Conference of the Association for Moral Education – New York City, USA October 24-26*
- 2023 “Is Capitalist Environmentalism an Oxymoron? – Understanding the Eco-Socialist Critique of Capitalism”
Climate Café Speaker Series at Phillips Academy – Andover – February 12
- 2022 [Is Effective Altruism Right?](#) – Invited Guest on [Rabbithole Podcast](#)
- 2022 “Getting Free (From a State of Nature): Kantian Republicanism and Informal Norms”
12th Braga Meetings on Ethics and Political Philosophy – June 27-28, 2022*
- 2022 “Exploitation *as* Unfreedom”
Panel: “New Directions in Exploitation and Exchange” at the Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society Annual Meeting 2021, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA. Postponed to February 3-5*
- 2021 “The Egalitarian Ethos: How an Informal Norm Can Help Realize Freedom”
Northwestern University Morality and Politics (NUMAP), January 26*
- 2021 “Socialist Effective Altruism: Egalitarianism and Effective Altruism under Capitalism and Beyond”
16th conference of the International Society for Utilitarian Studies at University of Illinois in Chicago, July 29-31* [Suspended in 2021 due to Covid-19]
- 2020 “Getting Free (From a State of Nature): Kantian Republicanism and Informal Norms”
Northwestern University Morality and Politics (NUMAP), April 17

- 2020 “When Adequacy Isn’t; Educational Justice, Positional Goods, and Class Power”
Concordia University Graduate Philosophy Conference, Montréal, Canada, March 13-14* [Suspended due to Covid-19]
- 2019 “Freedom Beyond the Rule of Law: Realizing Freedom with (Informal) Egalitarian Norms”
XVIII Congreso Interamericano de Filosofía, The University of Los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia, October 15-18*
- 2019 “When Adequacy Isn’t; Educational Justice, Positional Goods, and Class Power”
1st Bucharest Conference in Analytical Political Theory, Bucharest, Romania, June 13-15*
- 2019 “When Adequacy Isn’t; Educational Justice, Positional Goods, and Class Power”
Panel: “Education: Ideals, Evidence, and Implementation” at the Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA. March 28-30*
- 2019 “Freedom and the Social Ideal of Voice”
Dissertation Research Seminar, Northwestern University, January 7
- 2018 “Robust Freedom of Exit as a Social Ideal of a Freer Society”
Northwestern University Morality and Politics (NUMAP), October 8
- 2018 “Responsibility for Unfreedom,”
Fifth Conference of the Brazilian Society of Analytical Philosophy, Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, September 10-14*
- 2018 “Justification and Freedom as the Robust Absence of Socially Remediable Constraints”
Dissertation Research Seminar, Northwestern University, April 23
- 2018 “Adequacy, Positional Goods, and Social Change, A Critique of Anderson”
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Philosophy Graduate Conference, April 20-21*
- 2018 “Adequacy, Positional Goods, and Social Change, A Critique of Anderson”
Northwestern University, Graduate Works in Progress (GWIP), April 16
- 2018 “Freedom as Effective Power”
Northwestern University Morality and Politics (NUMAP), March 16

- 2017 “A Defense of Anti-Capitalist Effective Altruism”
3rd Annual Conference of the Centre for the Study of Global Ethics, University of Birmingham, June 1-2*
- 2017 “Domination, Subordination, and Being (Objectionably) Under the Power of Others”
Dissertation Research Seminar, Northwestern University, March 16
- 2016 “Rule Over None: Balloting by Lottery rather than Vote”
Northwestern University, Graduate Works in Progress (GWIP). November 14

Comments

- 2018 Blain Neufeld, “Public Reason, Ideal Theory, and Political Autonomy” at the Northwestern Practical Philosophy Workshop, April 6
- 2018 Claire Finkelstein, “Contracts Under Coercion: Should one Keep an Agreement with a Robber?” at the Central APA, Chicago, Illinois
- 2016 Kirun Sankarran, “Neo-Republicanism Needs a Criterion of Reasonableness” at the Northwestern Society for the Theory of Ethics and Politics (NUSTEP)
- 2016 Christopher M. Rice, “The Objective List Theory of Animal Well-Being” at the Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress (RoME), University of Colorado-Boulder

Panels Chaired

- 2022 Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana
Session 1: PPE and the Environment
Session 2: Feminist Reworkings in the Canon of Political Philosophy
- 2020 Central APA, Chicago, Illinois
Session 1: Christian Barry, “Environmental Offsets”
Session 2: ‘Marxism and Ecology’ featuring Phil Gasper “Dialectics of Nature: Engels and Ecology” and Tyler Zimmer, “Marxism, Technological Progress, and the Threat of Climate Change.”
- 2016 Judith Lichtenberg, “Effective Altruism: A Critique” at the Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress (RoME), University of Colorado-Boulder

Workshops

2018 “Ethics Across the Curriculum” at Georgetown University’s Institute for the Study of Markets and Ethics, October 12-14*

Prizes, Awards, and Funding

2025	Domestic Conference Travel Funding– UCF, to attend the 34 th Association for Practical and Professional Ethics Conference, \$2000
2024	Domestic Conference Travel Funding – UCF, to attend the 50 th Association of Moral Education Conference. \$2370
2022	Domestic Conference Travel Grant – Phillips Academy – Andover, to attend Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society Conference Annual Meeting 2022. \$2250
2022	International Conference Travel Grant – Phillips Academy – Andover, to present at 12 th Braga Meetings on Ethics and Political Philosophy. \$2500
2022	Domestic Conference Travel Grant – Phillips Academy – Andover, to present at Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society Annual Meeting 2021. \$1750
2021	Ernst Mach Grant – University of Salzburg, advised by Dr. Leonard Menges for a project on ‘Exploitation <i>as</i> Unfreedom.’ €1150 (monthly) for up to 9 months. [Declined]
2019	International Conference Travel Grant – The Graduate School of Northwestern University, to present at the XVIII Congreso Interamericano de Filosofía in Bogotá, Colombia. \$1300
2019	Domestic Conference Travel Grant – Northwestern University Philosophy, to present at the Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana. \$300
2019	Graduate Research Grant – The Graduate School of Northwestern University, to defray costs of studying in London while visiting the London School of Economics. \$3000

2018	Domestic Conference Travel Grant – Northwestern University Philosophy, to present at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Philosophy Graduate Conference. \$200
2017	International Conference Travel Grant – The Graduate School of Northwestern University, to present at 3 rd Annual Conference of the Centre for the Study of Global Ethics at the University of Birmingham. \$1300
2016	Scholarship Award for Effective Altruism Global Conference at University of California – Berkeley (Awarded as Chicago Chapter Organizer), \$400 waiver
2016	Domestic Conference Travel Grant – Northwestern University Philosophy, to attend Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress (RoME), University of Colorado-Boulder. \$225
2013	Bradley Freedom Prize Recipient (2 nd Place): “In Defense of a Highly Progressive Incentive Securing Tax for the Wealthy” awarded by the Wisconsin Center for the Study of Liberal Democracy, \$1500

Teaching

Instructor and Tutor Coordinator – Arete Academy

2025-26	Ethical Problems in Technology and AI – Online Course (Co-Taught)
2025	Introduction to Philosophy – Online Course (Co-Taught)
2024-2025	Introduction to Philosophy – Online Course for Chinese Highschoolers

Instructor at Phillips Academy – Andover

2023	Response to the Holocaust
2022-23	Justice and Globalization
2022-23	Feminist Philosophy
2022-23	Proof and Persuasion (2 iterations)
2022-23	Law and Morality (2 iterations)
2022	Environmental Ethics (3 iterations)
2021-23	Bioethics (3 iterations)
2021-22	Introduction to Ethics (7 iterations)

Instructor of Record at Northwestern University

2021	Environmental Ethics, Summer Term
2020	Introduction to Political Philosophy, Summer Term
2019	Introduction to Philosophy, Summer Term

Graduate Teaching Assistantships

Responsibilities including leading weekly discussion sections, holding office hours, offering feedback and grading student work, and functioning as the main point of contact for students.

2021	Introduction to Philosophy (Lead Teaching Assistant)—Sanford Goldberg
2020	Introduction to the Hebrew Bible—Barry Wimpfheimer (Religious Studies)
2020	Environmental Ethics—Chad Horne
2020	Ethical Problems and Public Issues—Chad Horne
2018	Gender, Politics, and Philosophy—Tyler Zimmer
2017	Critiques of Morality: Nietzsche and Williams – Mark Alznauer
2017	Gender, Politics, and Philosophy—Penelope Deutscher
2017	Ethical Problems and Public Issues—Mark Sheldon
2016	Environmental Ethics—Richard Kraut
2015	Introduction to Moral Philosophy—Stephen White

Grader

Responsibilities included offering feedback and assigning grades to student work. For ISEN courses it included serving as the primary communication for students regarding assignments, discussion board moderation, and regular contact with students via email and in office hours.

2021	The Philosophy of Punishment and Incarceration—Jennifer Lackey This class includes students at Northwestern and in Northwestern’s Prison Education Program at Stateville Correctional Center
2021	Climate Change and Sustainability: Ethical Dimensions—Mark Thompson (Institute for Sustainability and Energy)
2020	Ways of Knowing: Learning in the Postcolony—Sami Hermez & Torsten Menge (Liberal Arts at Northwestern University – Qatar)
2020	Climate Change and Sustainability: Ethical Dimensions—Mark Thompson (Institute for Sustainability and Energy)
2020	Business and Professional Ethics—John Laing
2019	Climate Change and Sustainability: Ethical Dimensions—Gretchen Ellefson (Institute for Sustainability and Energy)

Other Teaching Related Activities

2024-2025	Personal and Professional Integrity Class – UCF Pathways to Success Graduate Training
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2024-2025	High School Philosophy Tutor, Philosophy and History Teaching Coordinator
2023	Private English Language Teacher in Quito, Ecuador
2022-2023	Teaching Mentor to Phillips Academy's Teaching Fellow Aidan Spencer
2021	Teaching Resource Coordinator for the NU Philosophy Graduate Students
2021	Graduate Admissions Coach at InGenius Prep
2019-2020	Coach, Ethics Bowl at Sullivan High School with NU's Minorities and Philosophy Chapter
2017-2018	Graduate of the Teaching Certificate Program at Northwestern University's Searle Center for Advancing Learning and Teaching

Service

Disciplinary Service and Involvement

2024-2025	Be Better Club Ethics Discussion Organizer
2023-2025	UCF Center for Ethics
2025	Ethics Bowl Judge – National Championship in Norfolk Virginia
2022-2023	House Counselor – Bishop House
2021-2022	Complement House Counselor – Carriage House
2018	Organizing Committee of Philm, Northwestern's Philosophy and Film Group
2017-2021	Northwestern University Morality and Politics (NUMAP)
2017-2018	Department Representative for Philosophy to the Graduate Leadership and Advocacy Council, Northwestern University
2017-2018	Global Capitalism and Law Research Group
2016	Organizer; Sidgwick and Parfit Reading Group
2015-2016	Teatime Coordinator for Northwestern Philosophy Graduate Student Association
2014-2021	Paper Reviewer at The Northwestern Society for the Theory of Ethics and Politics (NUSTEP) Conference. Organizing Committee 2018
2014-2021	Practical Philosophy Workshop. Co-Organizer 2017-2018
2014-2017	Animal Studies Reading Group
2014-2015	Marx's <i>Capital</i> Reading Group

University Service

2015-2021	Graduate Participant in the "I'm First Campaign" to Mentor First Generation Students at Northwestern University.
2015-2017	Graduate Fellow at Jones Residential College

Other Service and Extracurricular Involvement

2016-2020	Member and Organizer with Northwestern University Graduate Workers
2014-2021	Organizer; Effective Altruism Chicago

Graduate Coursework

(Reverse chronologically by Category) A: Audit *: Graduate Seminar

Value Theory

1. The Future of Democracy – Cristina Lafont [A]*
2. Global (In)justice [Political Science] – Shmulik Nili [A]*
3. Habermas – Cristina Lafont [A]*
4. Scanlon's What We Owe to Each Other – Stephen White [A]*
5. Global Capitalism and Law [w/ Political Science] – Karen Alter and Cristina Lafont [A]*
6. Hegel and Honneth – Mark Alznauer [A]*
7. Inarticulacy and Reasonable Commitments – Kyla Ebels-Duggan*
8. Contemporary Egalitarianism [Political Science] – Chiara Cordelli at University of Chicago*
9. The Future of Democracy 2 – Cristina Lafont*
10. The Future of Democracy 1 – Cristina Lafont*
11. Marx and Marxism – Charles Mills*
12. The Practical Point of View – Stephen White*
13. Democratic Virtue – Anthony Laden at University of Illinois-Chicago*
14. Desires – Kyla Ebels-Duggan*
15. Impartiality and the Moral Point of View – Stephen White
16. Rawls and his Critics – Charles Mills*
17. The Ethics of Interaction – Stephen White*
18. Distributive Justice – Harry Brighouse at UW – Madison [A]*
19. Analytical Marxism [Sociology] – Erik Olin-Wright at UW – Madison *
20. Kant and Kantian Ethics – Claudia Card at UW – Madison *
21. Normative Ethical Theories – Robert Streiffer at UW – Madison *

History of Philosophy

1. Hegel and Marx on History – Mark Alznauer [A]*
2. Plato and Aristotle in the Islamic Tradition [w/ Political Science] – Makram Abbas [A]*
3. Plato's Ethics – Richard Kraut*
4. The Social Contract Tradition – Stephen White
5. Aristotle's Ethics – Richard Kraut*
6. Kant's Moral Theory – Kyla Ebels-Duggan
7. History of Utilitarianism – Martha Nussbaum at University of Chicago [A]*

Metaphysics, Epistemology, and Philosophy of Science

1. The Nature of Belief – Sanford Goldberg [A]*
2. Logic – Michael Glanzberg
3. Philosophy of Science – Matthew Kopec*
4. Classics in Analytic Philosophy 2 – Sanford Goldberg*
5. Classics in Analytic Philosophy 1 – Sanford Goldberg*

References

***Can Speak to my Teaching**

Kyla Ebels-Duggan

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Cristina Lafont

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of Philosophy
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Laura Valentini

Chair in Philosophy and Political Theory
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Jonathan Beever*

Professor of Philosophy
University of Central Florida
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Kiran Bhardwaj*

Chair and Instructor in Philosophy and Religious
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Elena Dugan*

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Michael Legaspi*

Associate Professor of Old Testament
St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary
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