Michael Byron

Department of Philosophy
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Current Appointments
Chair, Philosophy Department, Kent State University (2018)
Professor of Philosophy, Kent State University (2016)

Education
M.A., Ph.D. in Philosophy, University of Notre Dame, 1996
M.A.R. in Ethics, Yale University, 1990
A.B. in Religion, Princeton University, 1986

Specializations: Moral theory, metaethics, history of moral and political philosophy, rational choice theory

Prior Appointments
2009–2018, Graduate Coordinator, Department of Philosophy, Kent State University
2004–2005, Fulbright Visiting Scholar, Lingnan University, Hong Kong
2003–2016, Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, Kent State University
1997–2003, Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Kent State University
1996–1997, Frances Elvidge Postdoctoral Fellow, University of South Florida (St. Petersburg)
1993–1996, Lecturer, Department of Philosophy, University of Notre Dame
1993–1994, Adjunct Lecturer, Dept. of Philosophy, Indiana University at South Bend
1986–1988, Instructor, Department of Foreign Languages, Tunghai University, Taiwan

Citations
Google Scholar career citations: 517; last 5 years: 142; h-index = 8 (as of Jul 1, 2023)

Books
3. *Submission and Subjection in* Leviathan: *Good Subjects in the Hobbesian Commonwealth* (monograph), Palgrave Macmillan, 2015. Reviews: EHS Symposium Discussion, *Hobbes Studies* review
2. *Satisficing and Maximizing: Moral Theorists on Practical Reason* (edited volume), Cambridge University Press, 2004. Reviews: *Mind* review, *Philosophical Books* review, *metapsychology* review
1. *Research Ethics: Text and Readings*, with Deborah Barnbaum, Prentice Hall, 2001.

Refereed Articles

15. "Advancing Social Justice by Improving Social Cognition through Literary Study," *Scientific Study of Literature* 9 (2019): 107–61; with Mark Bracher, Deborah Barnbaum, Tammy Clewell, Nancy Docherty, Françoise Massardier-Kenney, David Pereplyotchik, Susan Roxburgh, and Elizabeth Smith-Prior.

14. "Right-Making, Reference, and Reduction," *Disputatio* 6 (2014), 139–145.

13. "Evidentiary Fallacies and Empirical Data," *American Philosophical Quarterly* 49 (2012): 175–182.

12. "Floridi's Fourth Revolution and the Demise of Ethics," *Knowledge, Technology & Policy* 23 (2010): 135–147.

11. "Human Rights: A Modest Proposal," *Ethics & Politics* 11 (2009): 470–494.

10. "Simon's Revenge: or, Incommensurability and Satisficing," *Analysis* 65 (2005): 311–315.

9. "Teaching with Tiki," *Teaching Philosophy* 28 (2005): 105–113.

8. "Consequentialist Friendship and Quasi-Instrumental Goods," *Utilitas* 14 (2002): 249–257.

7. "Computer-based 'Introduction to Formal Logic'," *Teaching Philosophy* 24 (2001): 255–277.

6. "Virtue and the Reductivist Challenge," *Contemporary Philosophy* 22 (2000): 34–41.

5. "Why My Opinion Shouldn't Count: Revenge, Retribution, and the Death Penalty Debate," *Journal of Social Philosophy* 31 (2000): 307–315.

4. "Why Consequentialists Can't Be Friends," *Proceedings of the Ohio Philosophical Association*, April, 2000.

3. "Evolutionary Ethics and Biologically Supportable Morality," *Proceedings of Twentieth World Congress of Philosophy, PAIDEIA: Philosophy Educating Humanity*, electronic version published online, May, 1999.

2. "Satisficing and Optimality," *Ethics* 109 (1998): 67–93.

1. "Rationality Is Not Fair," *Analysis* 55 (1995): 252–260.

Book Chapters & Symposia (Invited)

8. Colloquium on Hobbes's Political Philosophy, by A. P. Martinich, European Hobbes Society, EHS website, 2022.

7. "Hobbes on Submission to God" pp. 287–302 in *A Companion to Hobbes*, ed. Marcus Adams, Blackwell Press, 2021.

6. "Hobbes's Confounding Foole" pp. 206–222 in *Interpreting Hobbes's Political Philosophy*, ed. S. A. Lloyd, Cambridge University Press, 2019.

5. Symposium on *Submission and Subjection in Leviathan*, European Hobbes Society, EHS website, 2017.

4. "Teaching with Tiki" pp. 233–240 in *Computing and Philosophy in Asia*, ed. Soraj Hongladarom, Cambridge Scholars Press, 2007.

3. "Could Aristotle Satisfice?" pp. 190–212 in *Satisficing and Maximizing*, ed. Michael Byron, Cambridge University Press, 2004.

2. "Introduction," pp. 1–13 in *Satisficing and Maximizing*, ed. Michael Byron, Cambridge University Press, 2004.

1. "Whose Power? Which Rationality?" pp. 68-71 in *The Boundaries of Freedom of Expression and Order in American Democracy*, ed. Thomas R. Hensley, Kent State

University Press, Kent, 2001.

Book Reviews/Notes (Invited)

6. "Hobbes's *On the Citizen*: A Critical Guide," ed. Robin Douglass and Johan Olsthoorn, *Hobbes Studies* XX (2021): 1–5.
5. "The International Hobbes Association: Past, Present, and Future," coauthored with Bernard Baumrin, Rosamond Rhodes, *Hobbes Studies* 31 (2018) 213–216.
4. "Hobbes on Legal Authority and Political Obligation," by Luciano Venezia; review published in "Authors' Exchange" with Luciano Venezia (2 reviews plus replies) in *Hobbes Studies* 29 (2016) 189–205.
3. "Drawing Morals," by Thomas Hurka, *Journal of Moral Philosophy* 11 (2014): 261–264. DOI: 10.1163/17455243-01102008
2. "On Settling," by Robert Goodin, *Ethics* 123 (2013): 560–563.
1. Note on Eric M. Cave, *Preferring Justice: Rationality, Self-Transformation, and the Sense of Justice* (Westview, 1997), *Ethics* 110 (2000): 690.

Presentations

46. Virtual Meeting Organizer, January, 2021, International Hobbes Association.
45. American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division meeting, Philadelphia PA, January, 2020: Chair of session, International Hobbes Association.
44. American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division meeting, New York NY, January, 2019: Chair of session, International Hobbes Association.
43. American Philosophical Association, Central Division meeting, Chicago IL, February, 2018: Chair of session, International Hobbes Association.
42. American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division meeting, Baltimore MD, January, 2017: "Hobbes's Confounding Foole," refereed address to the International Hobbes Association.
41. American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division meeting, Baltimore MD, January, 2017: "Authority and Authorization in Hobbes: A Reply to GA Cohen," invited address to the American Society of Value Inquiry.
40. American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division meeting, Washington DC, January, 2016: "Debate Among Authors," with Luciano Venezia and Eleanor Curran, invited session by the International Hobbes Association.
39. American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division meeting, Philadelphia, December, 2014: "Submission and Subjection in *Leviathan*," refereed address to the International Hobbes Association.
38. Pittsburgh Area Philosophy Colloquium, September, 2014: "Submission and Subjection in *Leviathan*," refereed presentation at Washington & Jefferson College.
37. Invited talk, Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids, MI, March, 2012: "A Hobbesian Puzzle."
36. Invited talk, Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids, MI, March, 2012: "Analytic Moral Functionalism and the Permutation Problem."
35. American Philosophical Association, Central Division meeting, Minneapolis, March, 2011: comment on "A Method for Characterizing Self-Deception."
34. American Philosophical Association, Central Division meeting, Chicago, February,

2010: "Kantian Supererogation."

33. American Philosophical Association, Central Division meeting, Chicago, February, 2009: comment on "Trust and the Prisoner's Dilemma."

32. American Philosophical Association, Central Division meeting, Chicago, February, 2009: chair of APA Committee for Philosophy and Computers session entitled, "Online Courseware."

31. Lingnan University, Hong Kong, April, 2005: "Alternative Consequentialisms, Part 2: Position-Relative Consequentialism."

30. Hong Kong University, Hong Kong, April, 2005: "Alternative Consequentialisms, Part 1: Person-Based Consequentialism."

29. Lingnan University, Hong Kong, March, 2005: "Human Rights: A Modest Proposal."

28. International Association for Computing and Philosophy (IACAP), Computing and Philosophy Conference, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand, January, 2005: "Teaching with Tiki."

27. Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand, January, 2005: "Human Rights: A Modest Proposal."

26. Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong, November, 2004: "Human Rights: A Modest Proposal."

25. Hong Kong University, Hong Kong, November, 2004: "Human Rights: A Modest Proposal."

24. National University of Singapore, Singapore, October, 2004: "Human Rights: A Modest Proposal."

23. Singapore Management University, Singapore, October, 2004: "Human Rights: A Modest Proposal."

22. Ohio Philosophy Association, annual meeting, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio, April, 2004: "Is Hobbes a Value Subjectivist?"

21. Northeast Ohio Philosophy Consortium, annual meeting, John Carroll University, University Heights, Ohio, October, 2003: "Is Hobbes a Value Subjectivist?"

20. Ohio Philosophical Association, annual meeting, Ohio Northern University, Ada, Ohio, April, 2003: commentator on "Two problems of disagreement."

19. American Philosophical Association Committee on Computing and Philosophy, Computing and Philosophy Conference, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, August, 2002: "Distance Logic at Kent State University." (Presentation and discussion with a panel of 4 students from PHIL 21002, Spring 2002)

18. Ohio Philosophical Association, annual meeting, Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, Ohio, April, 2002: commentator on "Frankfurt and Volitional Necessities."

17. American Philosophical Association Committee on Computing and Philosophy, Computing and Philosophy Conference, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, August, 2001: "Formal Logic via Distance Learning at Kent State University."

16. Institute for Advanced Philosophic Research, 40th Annual Summer Conference, Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, August, 2000: "Virtue and the Reductivist Challenge."

15. Kent State University 30th May 4 Commemoration Symposium, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio, May, 2000: "Whose Power? Which Rationality?" Comment

on David Estlund, "Deliberation Down and Dirty: Must Political Expression be Civil?"

14. Ohio Philosophical Association, annual meeting, Ohio Wesleyan University, April, 2000: "Why Consequentialists Can't Be Friends."

13. Indiana Philosophical Association, annual meeting, Purdue University, November, 1999: "Why Consequentialists Can't Be Friends."

12. Northeast Ohio Philosophy Consortium, fall meeting, John Carroll University, October, 1999: comment on "The Myth of Externalist Utilitarianism."

11. University of Waterloo Working Group on Decision Theory and Ethics, annual conference, Waterloo, Ontario, October, 1999: "Could Aristotle Satisfice?"

10. Tri-State Philosophical Association, annual meeting, Erie, Pennsylvania, April, 1999: comment on "Should We Compensate the Descendants of Slaves?"

9. Tri-State Philosophical Association, annual meeting, Jamestown, New York, October, 1998: "My Consequentialist Friends"

8. Twentieth World Congress of Philosophy, PAIDEIA: Philosophy Educating Humanity, Theoretical Ethics Section, Boston, Massachusetts, August, 1998: "Evolutionary Ethics and Biologically Supportable Morality"

7. Kent State University Biomedical Sciences Annual Meeting, Kent State University, November, 1997: presenter at poster session on Research Ethics

6. National Conference on Ethics and Popular Culture, Clearwater, Florida, April, 1997: "Amusing Ourselves to Death: Television Goes to College"

5. Florida Philosophical Association, annual meeting, Ocala, Florida, November, 1996: "Collective Action and the Prisoners' Dilemma"

4. American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division meeting, San Francisco, California, March, 1995: "Paradoxes of Rational Choice Theory and Eligibility of Content"

3. University of Notre Dame, Philosophy Department Colloquium, November, 1994: "Whither, Pragmatic Epistemology?"

2. American Philosophical Association, Central Division meeting, Kansas City, Missouri, May, 1994: "On the Semantics of Pragmatic Epistemology"

1. Central States Philosophical Association, annual meeting, University of Missouri-Rolla, October, 1993: "Reflections on the Semantics of Stich's Pragmatic Epistemology"

Honors (career)
Fulbright Research/Lecturing Award Alternate, Council for International Exchange of Scholars, 2017–18 at NUS, Singapore.
Fulbright Research/Lecturing Award, Council for International Exchange of Scholars, 2004–05 at Lingnan University, Hong Kong.
First Annual CAP Award, American Philosophical Association Committee on Computers and Philosophy, CAP Conference, Carnegie Mellon University, August, 2001.
University Orientation Outstanding Teaching Team Award, Kent State University, Fall, 1999
Frances Elvidge Postdoctoral Fellowship in Ethics, The Ethics Center, University of South Florida, 1996-97

Nominee, Madden Award for Outstanding Teaching of Freshmen, University of Notre Dame, May, 1995

Graduate Student Stipend Winner, Central Division APA meeting, May, 1994: "On the Semantics of Pragmatic Epistemology"

Notre Dame: Graduate Teaching Fellowship, 1994-95
              Dissertation Semester Fellowship, Spring, 1994
              O'Brien Fellowship, 1990-91

Yale: M.A.R. with High Honors

Princeton: A.B. with Honors

MA Theses Directed (career)

6. Adam Shatsky, 2015–16, "Moral Responsibility, Frankfurt-Style Cases, and Alternative Possibilities" (completed).
5. Garrett Rauckhorst, 2012–13, "Railton's Moral Realism" (completed).
4. Angel Cooper, 2011–12, "Sartre's Ethics" (completed).
3. Frank Scalambrino, 2003, "Psychotherapy: Speaking Philosophically" (completed).
2. Michael Skrajner, 2000-2001, "Why We Should be Vegetarians: A Critical Appropriation of Singer and Regan" (completed).
1. Elizabeth Rager, 1999-2000, "Moral Objectivity without Rules: An Exploration of Moral Cognitivism and Moral Particularism" (completed).

Graduate Courses Taught (last 10 years)

Asian Philosophy (S17)

Ethical Theory (S14, S16, S18, S20)

Metaethics (F11, S13, S15, S17, S21)

Aristotle (S16, S18)

History of Ethics (Hobbes F10, Aristotle S12, Kant S19)

Graduate Seminar: Hume's Moral Philosophy (F17)

Graduate Seminar: Recent Virtue Ethics (F12)

Service (selections)

Profession:

Consulting Editor, *Journal of the American Philosophical Association* (2014–)

Advisory board: *Ethics and Politics* (2009–)

Articles refereed (36): *American Philosophical Quarterly* (2); *American Political Science Review; Canadian Journal of Philosophy; Economics and Philosophy; Ethics: An International Journal of Social, Political, and Legal Philosophy; Ethics and Politics; History of European Ideas; History of Political Thought; Hobbes Studies; Journal of the American Philosophical Association* (6); *Journal of Philosophical Research; Journal of Philosophy; Journal of Social Philosophy* (3); *Journal of Value Inquiry* (6); *Mind; Philosophical Quarterly* (2); *Philosophical Studies* (2); *Political Research Quarterly; Social Theory and Practice; Teaching Ethics; topiCS: Topics in Cognitive Science.*

Sovereign (President), International Hobbes Association, 2018–

Executive Board, International Association of Computing and Philosophy, 2010–13.

Chair, APA Committee on Philosophy and Computers, 2007–10.

Associate Chair, APA Committee on Philosophy and Computers, 2006–07.
President, Ohio Philosophical Association, 2007–09.

University:
EPC Fiscal Impact Statement Subcommittee, 2021–22
Faculty Senate Faculty Ethics Committee, CAS representative, 2016–18; Chair, 2017–18.
Anthropology RTP Committee, Spring 2017
Faculty Senate Budget Advisory Committee, CAS representative, 2016–18.
Faculty Senate Commission on Evaluating Teaching (Lovejoy Commission), 2010–11.
Political Science Graduate Program Review Committee, Spring, 2008.

College:
College Advisory Committee, 2010–2018 (except F13 during FPIL).
PHIL representative, PPE major development committee, 2015.
Assistant Pre-Law Advisor, 1999–2011.

Department:
Chair, 2018–present
Revised MA Program in Philosophy, summer 2012 (approved, implemented F13)
Philosophy website, Summer, 2002–present; redesigned 2008; integrated with KSU CMS server 2010; updated 2015; faculty profiles 2017
Graduate Coordinator, 2009–2018