

J. Joseph Porter

Employment

University of Colorado Boulder

Bruce D. Benson Center for the Study of Western Civilization

Associate Teaching Professor

Director of Undergraduate Studies

Boulder, CO

August 2024-present

October 2024-present

DePauw University

Janet Prindle Institute for Ethics

Nancy Schaenen Endowed Visiting Scholar of Ethics

Assistant Director of Academic Services

Greencastle, IN

August 2022-June 2024

Department of Philosophy

Visiting Assistant Professor

August 2022-June 2024

Education

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Ph.D., Philosophy

M.A., Philosophy

Chapel Hill, NC

May 2022

May 2018

Harvard University

M.T.S., New Testament and Early Christianity

A.B., Philosophy (High Honors), *magna cum laude*

Secondary Field in the Comparative Study of Religion

Cambridge, MA

May 2016

May 2012

Research and Teaching Interests

Areas of Specialization

- Social and political philosophy
- PPE (philosophy, politics, and economics)
- Ethics (especially bioethics and animal ethics)

Areas of Competence

- History of philosophy (especially the history of political philosophy)
- Ancient philosophy
- Philosophy of religion
- Meta-ethics
- Free will

Languages

Reading Proficiency

- *Ancient*: Greek, Latin, Hebrew
- *Modern*: German, French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese

Publications

- [“Existential Risk and Equal Political Liberty”](#) (with Adam Gibbons)
Asian Journal of Philosophy (2024)
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Works in Progress

- “Power Laundering” (draft available upon request)
 - “The Irresponsible Coercion Argument Against Democracy”
 - “The Diminished Recognition Respect Argument Against Democracy”
 - “Is Democracy the Most Stable Form of Government?” (draft available upon request)
 - “The Expressive Duty Not to Vote”
 - “The Duty to Avoid Preventable Bad Health” (draft available upon request)
 - “Health and the Ethics of Eating Meat” (draft available upon request)
 - “Rawls’ Argument from Self-respect” (draft available upon request)
 - “The Market Capitalization Sleight of Hand” (with David Solomon; draft available upon request)
 - “Bitcoin, Monetary Policy, and Justice” (with Alfredo Watkins)
 - “Public Choice and Elite Theory: Friends or Foes?” (with Alfredo Watkins)
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Selected Presentations

- “The Irresponsible Coercion Argument against Democracy” May 2024
(WIP Workshop in Moral and Political Philosophy, Crawfordsville, IN)
- “Public Choice and Elite Theory: Friends or Foes?” February 2024
(APPE International Conference, Cincinnati, OH)
- “The Expressive Duty Not to Vote” November 2023
(PPE Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA)
- “Bitcoin, Monetary Policy, and Justice” October 2023
(Markets & Society Conference, Falls Church, VA)
- “Explaining Liberalization: A Reply to Huemer” (invited) October 2023
(UW-Milwaukee graduate seminar)
- “The Duty to Avoid Preventable Bad Health” August 2023
(Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, Boulder, CO)
- “Power Laundering” April 2023
(BGSU Workshop in Applied Ethics and Public Policy, Bowling Green, OH)
- “The Loss of Recognition Respect Argument against Democracy” February 2023
(APA Central Division Meeting, Denver, CO)
- “Power Laundering” November 2022
(PPE Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA)
- “Two Arguments Against Democracy from Political Irresponsibility” April 2022
(BGSU Workshop in Applied Ethics and Public Policy, Bowling Green, OH)
- “Self-respect and Equal Political Liberty” December 2021
(Georgia Philosophical Society Online Workshop)
- “Existential Risk and Equal Political Liberty” October 2021
(Rust Belt PPE Workshop)
- “Meat Me Halfway? Ethics and the Health of Animal-based Diets” March 2020
(PPE Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA)
- “Explaining Normative Drift” March 2019
(PPE Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA)

Selected Comments

- Comments on Andrew Bailey, Bradley Rettler, and Craig Warmke's *Resistance Money* November 2024
(PPE Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA)
 - Comments on Aaron Yarmel and Jonathan Lang's "The Ethics of Customizable AI-generated Pornography" April 2024
(Midwest Ethics Symposium, Greencastle, IN)
 - Comments on Eric Sampson and Rebecca Tuvel's "In Defense of 'Harmful' and 'Dangerous Inquiry in Philosophy'" December 2023
(Indiana Philosophical Association Meeting, Greencastle, IN)
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Teaching

University of Colorado Boulder

Boulder, CO

Instructor of Record

- PHIL 2200. Major Social and Political Theories Fall 2024

Co-instructor

- CWCV 2010. Topics in Western Civilization Fall 2024

DePauw University

Greencastle, IN

Instructor of Record

- HONR 102C. Utopias and Dystopias (first-year Honor Scholar seminar) Spring 2024
- PHIL 470A. Independent Study: Power and the Machiavellian Tradition Spring 2024
- ETS 291E. Prindle Reading Course: Jane Austen, *Emma* Spring 2024
- PHIL 101B. Introduction to Philosophy Fall 2023
- PHIL 234. Bioethics Spring 2023
- EXPB. Ethics in Action (course for Prindle interns) Spring 2023
- PHIL 101A. Introduction to Philosophy Fall 2022
- EXPA. Ethics in Action (course for Prindle interns) Fall 2022

Co-instructor

- PHIL 209B/BUS 209BC. The Ethics Project: What to Do with \$1,000 Spring 2024
- ETS 250. Ethics in Action (course for Prindle interns) Fall 2023

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Chapel Hill, NC

Instructor of Record

- PHIL 170. Social Ethics and Political Thought Spring 2022
- PHIL 165. Bioethics Summer 2021
- GRAD 721. Research Ethics Spring 2020
- PHIL 384. Gateway to Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Fall 2019
- PHIL 110. Introduction to Philosophy Through Great Works Summer 2019
- PHIL 165. Bioethics Spring 2019
- PHIL 155. Introduction to Mathematical Logic Summer 2018

Teaching Assistant

- PHIL 163H. Practical Ethics (departmental representative for the Robertson Fellowship's honors colloquium) Spring 2020
- PHIL 155. Introduction to Mathematical Logic Fall 2018
- PHIL 105. Critical Thinking Spring 2018
- PHIL 160. Introduction to Ethics Fall 2017

- PPE 101. Ethics and Economics of Wealth Creation

Summer 2020

Public Philosophy and Outreach

- Organizer and moderator, “‘Only When It’s Funny’: Free Speech and the Arts” October 2024
- Host, Western Civilization Trivia Night Fall 2024-present
- Facilitator, High School Educator Retreat June 2024
- Organizer, “Risky Giving: Navigating Uncertainty When Trying to Do Good” March 2024
- Organizer, “The Ethics of Controversial Academic Inquiry” February 2024
- Panelist, “The Ethics of Voting” February 2024
- Judge, Central Division High School Ethics Bowl February 2024
- Organizer and moderator, “The Ethics of Capitalism” February 2024
- Judge, Indiana High School Ethics Bowl February 2024
- Ethics workshop leader Fall 2023
- Counselor, Express C.A.M.P. July 2023
- Participant, High School Educator Retreat June 2023
- Panelist, “The Ethics of Genetic Enhancement” March 2023
- Judge, Central Division High School Ethics Bowl February 2023
- Judge, Indiana High School Ethics Bowl February 2023
- Case writer, National High School Ethics Bowl Spring 2023
- Participant, Fireside Chats at Asbury Towers October 2022
- Discussant, “The Ethics of Eating Meat” October 2022
- Volunteer, Philosophy by Mail with NC Prisons Outreach Program Fall 2021-Spring 2022
- Organizer and co-host, “Afghanistan and American Foreign Policy: What Does the Future Hold?” October 2021
- Organizer and co-host, “Bitcoin: What Does the Future Hold?” March 2021
- Organizer and co-host, “What Can We Learn from ‘GameStopGate’?” February 2021
- Organizer and host, “Beyond Policy: Human Perspectives on the Opioid Crisis” (full-day interdisciplinary workshop) February 2020
- Leader, PPE Reading Group: *Love Your Enemies* Fall 2019
- Judge, National High School Ethics Bowl April 2019

Selected Honors and Awards

- Summer Graduate Research Fellowship (Institute for Humane Studies) May 2022
- Humane Studies Fellowship (Institute for Humane Studies) January 2022
- Adam Smith Fellowship (Mercatus Center) August 2021
- Don Lavoie Fellowship (Mercatus Center) January 2021
- Departmental Teaching Representative for the Robertson Fellowship Honors Colloquium (UNC-Chapel Hill) January 2020
- Adam Smith Fellowship (Mercatus Center) September 2019
- Humane Studies Fellowship (Institute for Humane Studies) September 2019
- Adams Fellowship (UNC-Chapel Hill) September 2018
- Initiative for Minority Excellence Scholarship (UNC-Chapel Hill) March 2016
- Prize for Work in Moral and Political Philosophy (awarded for my undergraduate thesis; Harvard) July 2012
- Phi Beta Kappa (Harvard) May 2012

Service to the Profession

- Referee and chair, PPE Society Annual Meeting November 2024
 - Participant, WIP Workshop in Moral and Political Philosophy May 2024
 - Co-organizer and referee, Midwest Ethics Symposium April 2024
 - Organizer and participant, Foothills Political Workshop March 2024
 - Referee, *The Philosophical Forum* Spring 2024
 - Referee and chair, PPE Society Annual Meeting November 2023
 - Reviewer, *Learning from Arguments: An Introduction to Philosophy* May 2023
 - Co-organizer and referee, Midwest Ethics Symposium April 2023
 - Co-organizer and chair, PPE Society Annual Meeting November 2022
 - Participant, manuscript workshop on Kevin Vallier's *All the Kingdoms of the World: On Radical Religious Alternatives to Liberalism* March 2022
 - Co-organizer and chair, PPE Society Annual Meeting February 2022
 - Co-organizer, referee, and chair, PPE Society Annual Meeting March 2020
 - Chair, PPE Society Annual Meeting March 2019
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Service to the University

DePauw University

Greencastle, IN

- Guest lecturer, Animal Ethics March 2024
- Faculty adviser, DePauw Futbol Club Spring 2024
- Reviewer, Honor Scholar applications Fall 2023-Spring 2024
- Member, NEH Humanities Connections project grant proposal team Summer 2023-Fall 2023
- Volunteer logic tutor April 2023-July 2023
- Assistant coach, DePauw University Ethics Bowl Team Spring 2023-Spring 2024
- Referee, Prindle Institute ethics reading courses Fall 2022-Spring 2024
- Member, Prindle Institute Faculty Advisory Committee Fall 2022-Spring 2024
- Faculty adviser, DePauw Ultimate Frisbee Fall 2022-Spring 2024

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Chapel Hill, NC

- Member, PPE Hiring Committee Fall 2021-Spring 2022
- Member, PPE Graduate Advising Committee Fall 2020-Spring 2022
- Affiliated graduate student, PPE Program Fall 2019-Spring 2022
- Member, PPE Hiring Committee Fall 2019-Spring 2020

Graduate Coursework

- Research Seminar in Value Theory, Simon Blackburn and Sarah Stroud Spring 2019
 - Modern Political Philosophy, Gerald Postema Spring 2019
 - Advanced Studies in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics, Luc Bovens Fall 2018
 - Empiricism, Alan Nelson Fall 2018
 - Advanced Studies in Value Theory, Mariska Leunissen and Rebecca Walker Spring 2018
 - Metaphysics, Peter van Inwagen (Duke University) Spring 2018
 - Plato, CDC Reeve Fall 2017
 - Rationalism, Alan Nelson Fall 2017
 - Research Seminar in Political Philosophy, Gerald Postema Fall 2017
 - Advanced Studies in Philosophy of Logic, Gillian Russell Spring 2017
 - Aristotle, Mariska Leunissen and CDC Reeve Spring 2017
 - Proto-Seminar in Philosophy, Alan Nelson and John Roberts Spring 2017
 - The Beginnings of Analytic Philosophy, Gillian Russell Spring 2017
 - Metaphysics, Thomas Hofweber Fall 2016
 - Research Seminar in Moral Theory, Douglas MacLean and Susan Wolf Fall 2016
 - Philosophy of Mind, Carla Merino-Rajme Fall 2016
 - Symbolic Logic, Thomas Hofweber Fall 2016
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References

Jeffrey Dunn

Phyllis W. Nicholas Executive Director, Janet Prindle Institute for Ethics
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Geoffrey Sayre-McCord

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Gerald J. Postema

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