Andrew L. Smith

Curriculum Vitae, October 2026

Contact Information

Department of Philosophy
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Education

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign — Ph.D., Philosophy, 08/2026
Texas Tech University — M.A., Philosophy, 05/2014
State University of New York, Geneseo — B.A. *summa cum laude*, Philosophy, 05/2011

Area of Specialization

Ethics

Areas of Competence

Kant, Nietzsche, Bernard Williams, metaethics, political philosophy

Dissertation

A Puzzle of Human Moral Identity

Committee: Jochen Bojanowski (chair), Verena Erlenbusch-Anderson, Nir Ben-Moshe, Kevin Scharp

Abstract: A prominent account of the authority of morality is found in Christine Korsgaard's *Kantian constitutivism*, according to which a necessary condition of being an agent is the recognition of the authority of morality. In my dissertation I attempt to show that Kantian constitutivism generates two paradoxical results. I argue that this strategy can succeed only if a subject herself possesses a very rich set of historically contingent concepts, which allows her to appreciate, not only the terms which occur in any attempt to justify the authority of morality, but her very activity of recognition. At the same time, once the subject has recognized the authority of morality, she also gains reason to *reject*, on ethical grounds, the aforementioned set of historically contingent concepts she needs to recognize the authority of morality in the first place. I conclude that the self-conception of modern, liberal agents is paradoxical and unstable, and I argue in favor of

dissolving the paradox through a rejection of the authority of morality, the first paradoxical result I generate. I then consider the political implications of the rejection of morality, and in particular, the implications for liberalism, by considering two ways in which we could ground liberalism according to Bernard Williams: *political moralism* and *political realism*. *Political moralism* is the view that the authority of morality is prior to that of politics, and *political realism* is that view that the authority of the political is prior to that of the moral. I argue political moralism cannot offer a justification of liberalism since I argue we should reject the authority of morality, and I argue political realism cannot justify liberalism either. As such, the rejection of morality entails a rejection of liberalism, the second paradoxical result.

Publications

"Why Must There Be an Ideal of Beauty?" Forthcoming in *Proceedings of the 14th International Kant-Congress: Kant's Project of Enlightenment*. Edited by Christoph Horn and Rainer Schäfer (Berlin: De Gruyter).

Works in Progress

- "Williams Contra Nietzsche in 'The Human Prejudice'"
- "A Note on a Common Error in Translating Nietzsche's *Beyond Good and Evil* §32"

Teaching Experience

As independent instructor

- Ethics and the Good Life (Spring 2027)
- Introduction to Ethics (Spring 2018, Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2022, Fall 2024)
- Logic (Fall 2012, Spring 2013, Summer I 2013, Summer II 2013, Fall 2013, Spring 2014)

As teaching assistant

- Introduction to Ethics (Spring 2015, Fall 2016, Fall 2017, Spring 2023)
- Introduction to Philosophy (Spring 2021, Fall 2021)
- Logic and Reasoning (Spring 2016, Fall 2019)
- Intermediate Logic (Spring 2017)
- Biomedical Ethics (Fall 2015)
- Logic (Summer 2012)
- Beginning Philosophy (Fall 2011, Spring 2012)

As grader

- Logic and Reasoning (half-semester course, Spring 2016)
- Logic and Reasoning (online course, Fall 2019)
- Symbolic Logic (Spring 2020)

Awards and Honors

• On UIUC "List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by their Students,"[1] Fall 2016, Spring 2017*, Fall 2017*, Spring 2018*, Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Spring 2021*, Spring 2023*
• UIUC Department of Philosophy C.E. Caton Award (for best graduate student essay), 2023
• UIUC Smalley Graduate Fellowship, Spring 2022
• UIUC Department of Philosophy Distinguished Graduate Student Teaching Award (for best graduate student instructor), 2018, 2023
• UIUC Department of Philosophy Fellowship, Fall 2014
• Texas Tech Department of Philosophy Edward W. Averill Scholarship, May 2012
• SUNY Geneseo Philosophy Department Graduation Honors, May 2011
• Phi Beta Kappa (NY-AΔ), May 2011

Presentations (including forthcoming)

Conference Talks

• "Hope for the Future: MacAskill's Argument for Optimism in *What We Owe the Future*," Illinois Philosophical Association, October 2024
• "Why Must There Be an Ideal of Beauty?", 14th International Kant Congress, September 2024
• "Williams contra Nietzsche in 'The Human Prejudice,'" APA Central Conference, February 2024
• "Why Must There Be an Ideal of Beauty?", APA Eastern Conference, January 2024
• "Williams contra Nietzsche in 'The Human Prejudice,'" Illinois Philosophical Association, November 2023
• "Why Must There Be an Ideal of Beauty?", Texas Tech Philosophy Graduate Student Conference, April 2017
• "Kant on Despising Oneself in the Second *Critique*," Texas Tech Philosophy Graduate Student Conference, April 2012

Conference Paper Comments

• Austen McDougal, "Love in the Time of the Breakup Era," APA Eastern Division Meeting, January 2027

[1] Instructors who are employed as teaching assistants (rather than faculty) are included on the list if their "Overall Teaching Effectiveness" scores are an average of 4.3 for a required course, 4.4 for a mixed course, and 4.5 for an elective course, where the scale is from 1-5. An asterisk means that "the instructor ratings were outstanding;" i.e., "Outstanding ratings (marked with an asterisk) are still awarded to instructors who obtained ratings of "High" (top 10% on each item for faculty and top 10% on item one for teaching assistants). See the entries at http://citl.illinois.edu/citl-101/measurement-evaluation/teaching-evaluation/teaching-evaluations-(ices)/teachers-ranked-as-excellent for more information.

- Joshua Ackerman, "Nietzsche and Good Conscience," Illinois Philosophical Association Meeting, October 2026
- Amy Berg, "Does Rossian Intuitionist Deontology Make Too Many Demands, or None at All?," APA Central Division Meeting, February 2026
- Seungchul Yang, "Montage of the Best Internalist Formulation of Reasons," APA Eastern Division Meeting, January 2026
- Michael Otteson, "Decisive Indecision: A Critique of David Brink's Perfectionism," Illinois Philosophical Association Meeting, November 2025
- Deke Gould, "The Ends of Humanity: Extinction and the Collective Afterlife," Illinois Philosophical Association Meeting, November 2023
- William Reckner, "Judgment and the Structure of Maxims in Kant's Practical Philosophy," APA Eastern Division Meeting, January 2023
- Sophia Arbeiter, "Validity as a Thick Concept," UIUC Graduate Philosophy Conference, April 2022
- J. Spencer Atkins, "Defining Wokeness," UIUC Graduate Philosophy Conference, May 2021
- Andrew Flynn, "On Correctly Understanding Anscombe's Theory of Reasons for Action," UIUC Graduate Philosophy Conference, April 2016
- Tymm Schmitke, "A Criticism of Dretske's Representational Theory of Consciousness," Texas Tech Philosophy Graduate Student Conference, April 2013

Service and Other Activities

- UIUC Department of Philosophy Undergraduate Academic Advisor, Spring 2024 to present (full time since May 2025)
- UIUC Philosophy Club advisor, 2024-present
- UIUC Department of Philosophy Ad Hoc Committee on Summer Teaching member, Fall 2025
- UIUC College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Committee on Advising in LAS, 2025-2028
- UIUC Department of Philosophy Undergraduate Program Committee member, Spring 2024
- UIUC Department of Philosophy TA Peer Mentor, 2023-2024
- UIUC Department of Philosophy photographer of graduate student events and department colloquia, 2022-present
- UIUC Department of Philosophy Alumni Engagement Committee member, 2021-2022
- UIUC Graduate Philosophy Organization President, 2017-2018
- UIUC Graduate Philosophy Conference Organizing Committee member and paper referee, 2015-2022
- Illinois Lyceum instructor (1 session on virtue ethics and loyalty), June 2015
  The Illinois Lyceum was a weeklong summer camp for middle- and high-school aged students on philosophy, organized and run by UIUC philosophy graduate students.
- UIUC Graduate Philosophy Organization Secretary, 2015-2016
- UIUC Philosophy Graduate Student Representative, 2014-2017, 2018-2019
- Recommendation letter for Jacob Beck's tenure and promotion (York University (Toronto, Canada)), 2013
- Paper Referee, Texas Tech Philosophy Graduate Student Conference, 2012 & 2013

• Texas Tech "Philosophy Café" discussion group facilitator x4, 2012-2014
• Undergraduate Student Representative, SUNY Geneseo, 2010-2011
• Recommendation letter for David Levy's tenure and promotion (SUNY Geneseo, 2010)

Professional Association Memberships

American Philosophical Association
North American Kant Society

Graduate Coursework

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (* indicates audit)

Ethics: Kant's Ethical Metaphysics* (Sussman), Kant and Arendt on Evil* (Varden), Kant on Sexuality and Gender* (Varden), Kant's Ethical Philosophy (Sussman), Modest Objectivity in the Moral Philosophy of the 18th and 20th Centuries (Ben-Moshe), Kant's Second *Critique* (Bojanowski), Philosophy of Action and Practical Reason (Sussman), Value Theory (Clark)
Social and political philosophy: Methodology in Social and Political Philosophy* (Bojanowski), Seminar on Social Philosophy* (Bojanowski), Luck Egalitarianism and its Critics* (Bojanowski), Punishment* (Sussman), Political Obligations and Legitimacy in Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, and Kant (Varden)
History: Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason** (Newton), Kant's *Critique of the Power of Judgment* (Newton), Freedom, Determinism, and Agency in Early Modern Philosophy (Weinberg), Hegel and Kant (Newton)
Metaphysics, epistemology, and logic: Logic for Philosophy* (Gilbert), Advanced Symbolic Logic (Gilbert), Philosophy of Religion (McKim), Formal Semantics (Lasersohn), Epistemology (Korman), Self-Consciousness (Newton)

Texas Tech University

Philosophy of Mind: Attitudes and Their Objects (Grzankowski), Consciousness (Dorsey), Panpsychism (Dorsey), Physicalism (Dorsey), Concept Learning and Acquisition (Beck)
Ethics: Utilitarianism (Schwartz), Contemporary Virtue Ethics (Curzer), Kant's Practical Philosophy (Schwartz)
History: Early Modern Philosophy (di Poppa), Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason* (Schwartz), Independent Study: Stephen Engstrom's *The Form of Practical Knowledge* (Schwartz), Independent Study: Theories of Causation in Spinoza and Maimonides (di Poppa), Plato's *Republic* and Homer's *Odyssey* (Curzer)
Metaphysics, epistemology, and logic: Advanced Logic (Tucker), Contextualism in the Philosophy of Language (Hom), Philosophy of Religion (Webb)
Miscellaneous: Interpretation in Law and Aesthetics (Nathan), Seminar on Teaching Philosophy (di Poppa)

Languages

English (native), German (intermediate reading)