

JUSTIN L. HARMON

University of Kentucky
Department of Philosophy
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Lexington, KY 40506
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AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

20th and 21st Century Continental Philosophy
Ethics
Social and Political Philosophy
Aesthetics

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Ancient Greek Philosophy
Feminism
Applied Ethics

EDUCATION

University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 2009 – 2016

Ph.D. Philosophy (Completed Defense: March 7, 2016)

Dissertation: *The Normative Architecture of Reality:
Towards an Object-Oriented Ethics*

Advisor: Theodore Schatzki - Professor of Philosophy,
University of Kentucky

University of Houston, Houston, TX 2007 – 2009

M.A. Philosophy

Master's Thesis: *Ethics as an Empty House:
The Intersection of Art and Place in Late Heidegger*

Advisor: Cynthia Freeland – Professor of Philosophy,
University of Houston

University of Houston, Houston, TX 2003 – 2007

B.A. Philosophy. *Magna cum laude*.

Graduated with University Honors and Honors in Major.

Senior Honor's Thesis: *Thought, Art, and Action: The Political
Aesthetics and Aesthetic Politics of Giovanni Gentile*

PUBLICATIONS

“The Sensuous as Source of Demand.” *Essays in Philosophy*, Vol. 13:2 (2012): 430-435.

“Dwelling in the House That Porn Built: A Phenomenological Critique of Pornography in the Age of Internet Technology.” *Social Philosophy Today*, Vol. 28 (2012): 115-130.

“Adventures of Form: Italian Aesthetics from Neo-Idealism to Pareyson.” *Annali d’Italianistica*, Vol. 29 (2011): 363-380.

“What Is It Like to Be Mysterious, Alienated, and Wildly Rich Through Less Than Savory Means? Phenomenal Consciousness and Aesthetic Experience.” *Consciousness, Literature and the Arts*, Vol. 10:2 (2009).

WORKS IN PROGRESS

“Towards an Aesthetics of Distraction.” *Journal of Aesthetics and Phenomenology* (submitted for initial review).

“Art, Being, and Value: Understanding the Anti-Instrumentalism of Heidegger and Marcuse’s Critique of Technology.” *Multi-Dimensional Marcuse: Radical Thought/ Action Today*. Palgrave Macmillan (submitted for publication).

“Ethics of Deferment: Luigi Pareyson’s Radical Hermeneutics of Truth.” *Estetyka I Krytyka/ The Polish Journal of Aesthetics* (in preparation).

TRANSLATIONS

Diodato, Roberto. *The Sensible Invisible: Itineraries in Aesthetic Ontology*. Trans. Justin L. Harmon. Milan: Mimesis International, November 2015.

Diodato, Roberto. *Aesthetics of the Virtual*. Trans. Justin L. Harmon. Albany: SUNY Press, 2012.

Leoni, Federico and Ronchi, Rocco. “The Ghost of Life: For a Genealogy of Bioethics.” Trans. Justin L. Harmon. *Annali d’Italianistica*, Vol. 29. (2011): 215-228.

PRESENTATIONS

The Excessive Materiality of Objects

2016 International Zizek Studies Conference
The University of Cincinnati
Cincinnati, OH, May 27-29, 2016

Art, Being, and Value: Understanding the Anti-Instrumentalism of Heidegger and Marcuse's Critique of Technology

International Marcuse Society 5th Biennial Conference
University of Kentucky
Lexington, KY, November 9th, 2013

Object-Oriented Ethics and Its Implications for Ecology

Eco-Lunch Speaker Series, Department of Ecology
University of Kentucky
Lexington, KY, November 1st, 2013

A Space Between: Place and Normativity in Plato's Timaeus

5th Annual Meeting of the Pacific Association for the Continental Tradition
University of San Francisco
San Francisco, CA, September 26th, 2013

Dwelling in the House That Porn Built: A Phenomenological Critique of Pornography

28th Annual International Social Philosophy Conference
Marquette University
Milwaukee, WI, July 2011

Bill Viola and Martin Heidegger and the Poiesis of Video

Society for the Philosophical Study of Contemporary Visual Arts Conference,
2010 Eastern APA Meeting
Boston, MA, December 2010

Bill Viola and Martin Heidegger and the Poiesis of Video

Australasian Society for Continental Philosophy 2009 Conference
Monash University
Melbourne, Australia, November 2009

COMMENTARY

Commentary on Kevin Mitchell's "Notes Towards a Philosophical Cultural Studies"

16th Annual UK Philosophy Graduate Student Conference
Lexington, KY, April 2013

Commentary on Gregg Horowitz's "Offensive Taste"

Perspectives on the Philosophy of Art Conference
University of Kentucky
Lexington, KY, March 2012

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, University of Kentucky

Introduction to Philosophy

Fall 2015, Fall 2014
Fall 2012

Introduction to Logic

Fall 2014, Fall 2011

Introduction to Logic (online)

Summer 2015, Summer 2013
Winter 2012, Summer 2010

Introduction to Ethics

Spring 2016, Spring 2015
Fall 2013, Spring 2013

Human Nature

Spring 2014

Death, Dying, and Quality of Life

Fall 2013

Business Ethics (online)

Summer 2013

Business Ethics

Spring 2013

Existentialist Thought and Literature

Spring 2016

Science Fiction and Philosophy

Spring 2016

Teaching Assistant, University of Kentucky

Introductory Logic, Timothy Sundell

Spring 2011

Introduction to Ethics, Natalie Nenadic

Fall 2010

Introductory Logic, Robert Sandmeyer

Spring 2010, Fall 2009

Instructor, St. Catherine College (Dual Enrollment HS Program)

Introduction to Philosophy

Spring 2013, Fall 2012

Instructor, Houston Community College

Introduction to Philosophy

Summer 2009

Introduction to Ethics

Summer 2009

Teaching Assistant, University of Houston

Introduction to Philosophy, Curtis Haaga

Spring 2009

Introduction to Philosophy, Bredo Johnsen

Fall 2008

Introduction to Ethics, Leslie Marenchin

Spring 2008

The Human Situation, Helen Hattab

Fall 2006

Instructor, Institute of Reading Development

Summer 2008

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Referee, Journal of Sexuality and Culture	2016
Referee, British Journal of Aesthetics	2015
Facilitator, UK Undergraduate Philosophy Club	2015
Conference Organizer	
14 th Annual UK Philosophy Graduate Student Conference	
<i>Place and Space</i> - Keynote Speaker: Karsten Harries (Yale)	March 2011
Vice President	
UK Philosophy Graduate Student Association	2010 – 2011
Representative, Department of Philosophy	
University of Kentucky Graduate Student Council	2009 – 2010

AWARDS AND HONORS

Delphian Essay Prize	
University of Houston	April 2009
Teaching Assistantship	
University of Houston	2007 – 2009
Human Situation Alumnus Assistantship	
University of Houston	Fall 2006

LANGUAGES

Italian, advanced proficiency in reading, intermediate proficiency in writing and speaking
Esperanto, advanced proficiency in reading, writing and speaking
German, intermediate proficiency in reading and writing

TEACHING ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITIES

Proseminar on Teaching Methodology	
Brandon Look	
University of Kentucky	Fall 2010
Microteach Seminar	
University of Kentucky	Fall 2009

GRADUATE COURSES TAKEN OR AUDITED

University of Kentucky

Towards a Concrete Ethics
Heidegger: Being There – Getting There
Merleau-Ponty's Final Contribution
Heidegger's Being and Time
German Aesthetics
Platonic Epistemology
Place in Greek Philosophy and Phenomenology
Philosophy of Law
19th Century Philosophy
Everydayness Study
Modernity, Technology & Pornography
Philosophy of Perception
Kant's and Hegel's Aesthetics
Marx and Western Marxism
Existentialism
Plato's Late Ontology

Daniel Breazeale
Ronald Bruzina
Ronald Bruzina
Natalie Nenadic
Stefan Bird-Pollan
Eric Sanday
Omer Aygün
Natalie Nenadic
Ronald Bruzina
Theodore Schatzki
Natalie Nenadic
Ronald Bruzina / Clare Batty
Anna Brzyski
Arnold Farr
Ronald Bruzina
Eric Sanday

University of Houston

Method in Bacon and Descartes
Existentialist Ethics
Kierkegaard & Nietzsche
Aesthetics
Consciousness
Phenomenology as Normative Science
Philosophy of Social Science
20th Century Philosophy
Plato's Late Dialogues

Helen Hattab
Steven Crowell (Rice Univ.)
Iain Morrison
Cynthia Freeland
Joshua Weisberg
Steven Crowell (Rice Univ.)
Paul Saka
James Garson
Cynthia Freeland

DISSERTATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Theodore Schatzki (Chair) – Associate Dean of Faculty, Professor of Philosophy, University of Kentucky

Ronald Bruzina – Professor of Philosophy, University of Kentucky

Arnold Farr – Professor of Philosophy, University of Kentucky

Anna Brzyski – Associate Dean of College of Fine Arts, Professor of Art History, University of Kentucky

DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

The Normative Architecture of Reality: Towards an Object-Oriented Ethics

The fact-value distinction has structured and still structures ongoing debates in metaethics, and all of the major positions in the field (expressivism, cognitivist realism, and moral error theory) subscribe to it. In contrast, I claim that the fact-value distinction is a contingent product of our intellectual history and a prime object for questioning. The most forceful reason for rejecting the distinction is that it presupposes a problematic understanding of the subject-object divide whereby one tends to view humans as the sole source of normativity in the world. My dissertation aims to disclose the background against which human ethical praxis is widely seen as a unique and special phenomenon among other phenomena.

I show that ethical norms, as delimited by utilitarianism, deontology, virtue ethics, etc., derive from an originary proto-ethical normativity at the heart of the real itself. Every object, human and nonhuman, presents itself as a bottomless series of cues or conditions of appropriateness that determine adequate and inadequate ways of relating to it. That is, objects demand something from other objects if they are to be related to; they condition other objects by soliciting a change in disposition, perception, or sense, and for this reason are sources of normativity in and unto themselves. Ethical norms, or values, are the human expression of the adequacy conditions with which all objects show themselves.

In the post-Kantian landscape it is widely thought that human finitude constitutes the origin of ethical norms. Consequently, the world is divided up into morally relevant agents (humans) on one side, and everything else on the other. Adopting a deflationary view of agency, I argue that human-human and human-world relations differ from other relations in degree rather than kind. Thus, instead of a fact-value distinction, value is inextricably bound up with the factual itself. The critical upshot of my project is that traditional subject-oriented ethical theories have served to conceal the real demands of non-human objects (such as animals, plants, microorganisms, and artificially intelligent machines) in favor of specifically human interests. Such theories have also been leveraged frequently in exclusionary practices with respect to different groups within the human community (e.g. women and those of non-European descent) based on arbitrary criteria or principles.