

BRENDAN DE KENESSEY
(Formerly Brendan Dill)

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AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Ethics, Metaethics, Moral Psychology

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Cognitive Science, Epistemology, Political Philosophy

EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor, University of Toronto, Department of Philosophy 2018 – present
(*Medical leaves Fall 2021 and Fall 2022*)
Postdoctoral Fellow-in-Residence, Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics at 2017-2018
Harvard University

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Philosophy, Massachusetts Institute of Technology 2011-2017
Dissertation: *Joint Practical Deliberation*
Committee: Kieran Setiya (chair), Stephen Darwall, Sally Haslanger, Julia Markovits, Bradford Skow
B.A. in Cognitive Science, *summa cum laude*, Yale University 2006-2011

PUBLICATIONS

“The Relation between Moral Reasons and Moral Requirement” Forthcoming
Erkenntnis
“Promises, Offers, Requests, Agreements” 2023
Ergo, 9:34: pp. 878-910.
“Promises as Proposals in Joint Practical Deliberation” 2020
Noûs, 54(1): pp. 204-232.
“Moral Psychology as Accountability” (with Stephen Darwall) 2014
In Moral Psychology and Human Agency: Philosophical Essays on the Science of

Ethics, edited by Justin D'Arms and Daniel Jacobson, pp. 40-83. Oxford:
Oxford University Press.

- "The Addict in Us All" (with Richard Holton) 2014
Frontiers in Psychiatry, 5(139): pp. 1-20.
- "No Sign of Quitting: Incidental Exposure to 'No Smoking' Signs Ironically
Boosts Cigarette-Approach Tendencies in Smokers" (with Brian Earp,
Jennifer Harris, Joshua Ackerman, & John Bargh) 2013
Journal of Applied Social Psychology, 43(10): pp. 2158-2162.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

- "A Dilemma for Rule Consequentialism and Contractualism: Relativism or Cluelessness"
(*The Journal of Philosophy*, revise and resubmit)
- "Two Concepts of Directed Obligation" (*Philosophy & Phenomenological Research*, revise
and resubmit)
- "Scorekeeping in a Joint Action Game" (under review)
- "Obligation to You and to All" (under review)
- "Nonmoral Reasons and the Rationality of Sainthood" (under review)

WRITING FOR A PUBLIC AUDIENCE

- "Depression and the good" 2023
Blog of the APA
- "The philosophical case against hoping Trump suffers" 2020
The Washington Post
- "People are dying because we misunderstand how those with addiction think" 2018
Vox.com
One of 5 winners of the 2019 APA Public Philosophy Op-Ed Contest
- "Can I make the world a better place?" 2017
Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics Blog, 'For the Record'

BOOK REVIEWS

- Review of *Moral Thinking, Fast and Slow*, by Hanno Sauer 2019
Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews, May 2019.
- Review of *Reasoning: A Social Picture*, by Anthony Simon Laden 2016
Philosophical Review, 125(3): pp. 435-439.

RESEARCH GRANTS

Connaught New Researcher Award, University of Toronto (\$10,000 CAD)	2018-19
Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship (\$38,000 USD)	2016-17
Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship (\$25,000 USD, declined)	2016

AWARDS

APA Public Philosophy Op-Ed Prize (for “People are dying because we misunderstand how those with addiction think”)	2019
Arthur Twining Hadley Prize, Yale University	2011
Yale Philosophy Review Essay Prize, 1 st Place	2010
Hart Lyman Prize, Yale University	2009
Psi Chi International Honor Society in Psychology, Yale University Chapter	2009
Phi Beta Kappa, Yale University Chapter	2008

PRESENTATIONS

“Activity Over Achievement” McMaster University (invited in 2023, rescheduled to 2024 due to weather)	2024
“Activity Over Achievement” University of Toronto Association of Philosophy Students	2023
Comments on Benjamin Eidelson, “Colorblindness, Respect, and Treating People as Individuals” Symposium on Discrimination and Subordination, University of Toronto	2019
“What Makes Reasons Moral?” Queen’s University Colloquium	2019
“What Makes Reasons Moral?” Oxford University, Moral Philosophy Seminar	2019
“Distinguishing Directed Obligation” Toronto-Oxford-UCLA Colloquium on Legal, Moral, and Political Philosophy	2019
Comments on Pamela Hieronymi, “Fairness, Sanctions, and Condemnation” Toronto-Oxford-UCLA Colloquium on Legal, Moral, and Political Philosophy	2019
Comments on Michael Bukoski, “Two Arguments from Akrasia to Internalism about Practical Deliberation” APA Eastern Division Meeting, Baltimore, Maryland	2017
“Assertion as a Proposal in Joint Doxastic Deliberation” Penn-Rutgers-Princeton Social Epistemology Workshop, Rutgers University	2016

“Homunculi Without the Fallacy”	2016
Me, the Self, and I Graduate Conference, University of Milan, Italy	
“Demystifying Uncaused Causes”	2016
Agency, Causality, and Free Will Conference, Institute of Philosophy, Zagreb, Croatia	
“Standing to Demand”	2015
Northern Illinois University Graduate Philosophy Conference	
“Inquiring Together”	2013
Bled Social Epistemology Conference, Bled, Slovenia	
Comments on Rae Langton, “Moral Realism and the Plasticity of Mind”	2013
MITing of the Minds, Massachusetts Institute of Technology	

UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING

Human Nature (PHL 244)	Fall 2018, 19, Winter 2024
Doing Good: Consequentialism in Ethics (PHL 375)	Winter 2019, 20, 22, Fall 2023
Seminar in Ethics: Lying (PHL 407)	Winter 2019
Seminar in Ethics: Ethics in Personal Relationships (PHL 407)	Winter 2020, 22
Seminar in Ethics: Well-being, Value, and the Meaning of Life (PHL 407)	Winter 2023, 24
Independent studies: Sophia Whicher (2019-20), Radheesh Ameresekere (second reader, Winter 2023), Dihan Niloy (Fall 2023), Natalie Yeh (Winter 2024), Olivia Sun (2023-24)	

GRADUATE TEACHING

The Self and Normativity (with David Barnett)	Fall 2023
Morality and Accountability	Fall 2019
PhD Proseminar (with Thomas Hurka)	Fall 2018

GRADUATE SUPERVISION

Dissertation committees: Kristen Beard, Ian Campbell, Jovy Chan, Martin Dimitrov, Alexandra Gustafson, Maria Keller, Liang Zhou Koh, Felix Lambrecht, Zain Raza

Qualifying committees: Kristen Beard, Jovy Chan, Stacy Chen, Alexandra Gustafson, Felix Lambrecht, Zain Raza

Independent studies: Kristen Beard (PhD, 2019) and Sophia Whicher (MA, 2023)

Teaching mentor: Henry Krahn

MA faculty mentor: Evangeline Tsagarakis (2019-20) and Jonah Dunch (2023-24)

Internal-external dissertation reader: Parisa Moosavi (2019), Jessica Wright (2020), Jared Riggs (2023)

SERVICE

Ethics & Political Philosophy Interest Group Coordinator	Winter 2023, 2023-24
Job Search Committee, University of Toronto Philosophy	2021-22, 22-23
Climate Committee, University of Toronto Philosophy	2020-21
Placement Committee, University of Toronto Philosophy	2019-20
Graduate Executive Committee, University of Toronto Philosophy	2019-20, 21-22, 22-23
Graduate Admissions Committee, University of Toronto Philosophy	2018-19
University of Toronto Cognitive Science Program Advisory Committee	2018-19
New England Public Philosophers Workshop on Writing Public Philosophy, Co-organizer (with Lawrence Blum)	2017
Referee for <i>Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie</i> , <i>Biological Theory</i> , <i>Canadian Journal of Philosophy</i> , <i>Erkenntnis</i> , <i>Ergo</i> , <i>Ethics</i> , <i>European Journal of Philosophy</i> , <i>Journal of the APA</i> , <i>Mind</i> , <i>Noûs</i> , <i>Oxford University Press</i> , <i>Philosophical Studies</i> , <i>Philosophical Quarterly</i> , <i>Southern Journal of Philosophy</i> , <i>Synthese</i> , and <i>Theoria</i>	

PUBLIC OUTREACH

“Why Do People Hate MrBeast?” YouTube interview with <i>theScore</i>	2023
“The Goodness and Badness of Human Beings” Interview on podcast “The nth Dimension”	2019
“Addiction and Philosophy” Café Bioethics, University of Toronto	2019
“Addiction and Philosophy” SMART Recovery Facilitator Forum, Boston, MA	2018