

Mike Gadomski

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Areas

Specialization: Social and political philosophy, ethical theory

Competence: Environmental philosophy, applied ethics, logic

Employment

Bryn Mawr College

Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy

2023-

Education

University of Pennsylvania

PhD, Philosophy

2017-23

Dissertation: *Projects of Politics*

Committee: Kok-Chor Tan (chair), Samuel Freeman, Errol Lord

Middlebury College

BA, Philosophy

2010-14

Magna cum laude, highest departmental honors

Publications

“Migration and the Point of Self-Determination”

forthcoming

Social Theory and Practice

“Crisis Nationalism: To What Degree Is National Partiality Justifiable during a Global Pandemic?”

2021

Ethical Theory and Moral Practice 24, 285-300

with Eilidh Beaton, Dylan Manson, and Kok-Chor Tan

“Understanding as Explanatory Knowledge: The Case of Bjorken Scaling”

2013

Studies in History and Philosophy of Science Part A 44(3), 384-392

with Kareem Khalifa

Works in progress

A paper defending the idea of a distinctly political normativity (revise and resubmit)

A paper on the relationship between egalitarianism and open borders (revise and resubmit)

A co-authored paper on sufficientarianism and capitalism

A paper on the authority of political normativity

Fellowships and awards

Graduate Fellowship, The Andrea Mitchell Center for the Study of Democracy, University of Pennsylvania	2021-22
Benjamin Franklin Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania	2017-21, 2022-23
Graduate Associates Program, Perry World House, University of Pennsylvania	2020-21
John T. Andrews Memorial Prize in Philosophy, Middlebury College	2014
Undergraduate Collaborative Research Fund, Middlebury College	2012, 2013

Talks

(† = refereed)

“Sufficiency and Capitalism,” with Tyler Re Andrea Mitchell Center for the Study of Democracy Graduate Workshop, virtual† Penn Normative Philosophy Group	2024 2024
“The Authority of Political Normativity” Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO†	2023
“Making Sense of Political Normativity” APA Central Division Meeting, Denver, CO† Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO† Penn Normative Philosophy Group, virtual	2023 2022 2022
“Sufficiency and Socioeconomic Systems” APA Eastern Division Meeting, Montréal, QC†	2023
“Borders, Movement, and Global Egalitarianism” Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO† Penn Normative Philosophy Group, virtual	2021 2021
“Migration and the Point of Self-Determination” Stanford Graduate Conference in Political Theory, virtual† Penn Normative Philosophy Group, virtual	2021 2020
“Is There a Coherent Egalitarian Approach to Migration?” IMISCOE PhD led Workshop on Norms and Values, virtual†	2021
“Objectivity in Democratic Politics and Theory” Great Lakes Philosophy Conference, virtual†	2021
“Internationalism and Political Normativity” MANCEPT Workshops in Political Theory, virtual	2021
“Truth and Function in Normative Political Theory” Penn Philosophy Graduate Colloquium, virtual	2021
“Democracy, Justification, and Responsibility” Philosophy in the Wild pilot event, Media, PA	2020
“Objectivity and Practical Political Philosophy” Penn Normative Philosophy Group, Philadelphia, PA	2020

Comments

- On Xuanpu Zhuang, "Relational Egalitarianism Cannot Be Replaced with Distributive Egalitarianism"
 APA Eastern Division Meeting, New York, NY 2024
- On Ian Peebles, "The Moralization vs. the Politicization of Social Phenomena: Some Methodological Considerations"
 Philadelphia Normative Philosophy Conference, Philadelphia, PA 2023

Teaching

As primary instructor

- Bryn Mawr College
- Happiness and Reality in Ancient Thought 2024
 - Truth, Science, and Politics 2024
 - Environmental Ethics 2023
 - Global Ethical Issues 2023
 - Authority, Obligation, and Justice 2023
- University of Pennsylvania
- Environmental Ethics 2021
 - The Social Contract 2021

As teaching assistant

- University of Pennsylvania
- Introduction to Ethics (Sukaina Hirji) 2020
 - Logic and Formal Reasoning (Daniel Kraemer) 2019
 - Introduction to Philosophy (Daniel Singer) 2019
 - The Social Contract (Kok-Chor Tan) 2018

Pre-college

- Benjamin B. Comegys School
- Philosophy for the Young (5th and 8th grades) 2018-20
- George Washington Carver High School of Engineering and Science
- Philosophy Club (9th-12th grades) 2019

Credentials

- Teaching Certificate, University of Pennsylvania Center for Teaching and Learning 2022

Service and professional activity

- Referee, *Political Studies*
- Co-founder, Philosophy in the Wild
- Co-organizer, Philosophy in the Wild Annual Summer Conference
- Colton Point State Park, Wellsboro, PA 2024
 - Poe Paddy State Park, Woodward, PA 2023

Ridley Creek State Park, Media, PA 2022
 Poe Paddy State Park, Woodward, PA 2021
 2021 and 2022 supported by the Greater Philadelphia Philosophy Consortium

Graduate student representative to faculty, Penn Philosophy Department 2022-23
 Participant, Penn Normative Philosophy Group 2018-23
 Co-organizer, Andrea Mitchell Center Graduate Workshop Series 2021-22
 Panel organizer, “Up Against the Wall: Migration in the Biden Era” 2022
 supported by the Andrea Mitchell Center for the Study of Democracy
 Co-organizer, “Global Justice beyond States,” MANCEPT Workshops in Political Theory 2021
 Co-facilitator, Penn Public Philosophy Book Club 2021
 Participant, Penn Public Philosophy Research Seminar 2020-21
 Judge, Philadelphia Ethics Bowl 2020, 2021
 Mentor, PENNCAP Graduate School Mentoring Initiative 2019-20
 Organizer, Penn Philosophy admitted graduate student visiting weekend 2019

Interviews and press

Member Interview, Blog of the American Philosophical Association 2022
 “Nationalism in Times of Crisis,” interview with *Omnia* 2021

References

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 Emeritus Avalon Professor in the Humanities
 University of Pennsylvania
 sfreeman@sas.upenn.edu

Loren Goldman
 Assistant Professor of Political Theory
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Errol Lord
 Associate Professor of Philosophy
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Sukaina Hirji (teaching)
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Dissertation abstract

Projects of Politics

The success or failure of our political arrangements depends on whether we can provide each other with convincing answers to the fundamental questions concerning how they are organized. These answers must make sense in terms of how we conceive of ourselves and the problems that we face. Across four essays, my dissertation examines the underappreciated consequences that this point has for political philosophy, and particularly dominant approaches to political philosophy that focus exclusively on the moral perspective. I start by defending the idea of a distinctively political domain of normativity, organized around the central value of shared political projects marked by mutually intelligible authority among their participants. I develop the thought that political power can achieve this value by addressing problems that communities take themselves to have, thus furthering common interests. I argue that this underwrites an approach to normative political concepts on which they are best understood as problem-solving tools, successful insofar as they achieve the goals of their users. The second half of the dissertation examines two central issues in global justice in light of these results. First, I consider global egalitarianism as both a moral position and political project, argue that there is a gap between the two, and lay out the elements for a political global egalitarianism based around the failure of our unequal world to address shared problems. Finally, I illustrate the problem-solving nature of political concepts by arguing that self-determination is best understood as a tool for opposing inter-group power hierarchies that fail to make sense to their subjects. I draw out one important consequence of this: self-determination's connection to the exclusion of migrants is considerably weakened, especially in cases involving wealthy and powerful states.