

BENJAMIN S. YOST

Department of Philosophy
Providence College
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benjaminsyost.net

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Providence College, Department of Philosophy, Associate Professor and Chair

Assistant Professor, 2008–2011; Associate Professor, 2013–; Chair, 2016–

Cornell University, Sage School of Philosophy

Postdoctoral Associate, Program on Ethics and Public Life, 2011–2013

Harvard University, College Writing Program

Lecturer, 2006–2008

Affiliations: Causes, Consequences, and Future of Mass Incarceration Project, Institute of the Social Sciences, Cornell University, 2015-present

Areas of Specialization: Kantian Ethics, Normative Jurisprudence, Philosophy of Punishment, Levinas

EDUCATION

Ph.D. **University of California, Berkeley.** Rhetoric (2007)

M.A. **Katholieke Universiteit, Leuven.** Philosophy (*magna cum laude*, 2002)

B.A. **Goshen College.** English Literature (1996)

BOOK MANUSCRIPT

Against Capital Punishment. Monograph solicited for review by Oxford University Press and Cambridge University Press; currently under review

ARTICLES

“Kant’s Theory of Motivation: A Hybrid Approach” *Review of Metaphysics* (forthcoming)

“What’s Wrong with Differential Punishment?” *Utilitas* (forthcoming; online at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S095382081600039X>)

“Kant’s Demonstration of Free Will, or How to Do Things with Concepts.” *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*, 2.2. (2016)

ARTICLES, CONTINUED

“Punishment, Desert, and Equality: A Levinasian Analysis.” *Death and Other Penalties: Philosophy in a Time of Mass Incarceration*, eds. Adelsberg, Guenther, and Zeman (Fordham UP, 2015)

Review. *Kant on Moral Autonomy*. ed. Sensen, in *Philosophical Review*, 123.4. (2014)

“The Irrevocability of Capital Punishment.” *Journal of Social Philosophy*, 42.3. (2011)

“Responsibility and Revision: a Levinasian Argument for the Abolition of Capital Punishment.” *Continental Philosophy Review*, 44.1 (2011)

“Kant’s Justification of the Death Penalty Reconsidered.” *Kantian Review*, 15.2. (2010)

“Freedom and Death.” *Law and Peace in Kant’s Philosophy: Proceedings of the 10th International Kant Congress*, vol. 3 (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 2008)

“Rule of Law Abolitionism.” *Studies in Law, Politics, and Society*, 42 (2008)

PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY

“Race and Capital Punishment.” *The Critique*, Special Series on Black Lives Matter. (June 2017)

SELECTED AWARDS AND HONORS

Interdisciplinary Faculty Seminar, “Relationships,” Providence College, 2011

North American Kant Society Travel Grant, 2005

American Philosophical Association Graduate Student Travel Grant, Central Division, 2003

Belgian American Educational Foundation Fellow, 2001-2002

Pew Charitable Trust (Younger Scholars Program) Graduate Fellow, 1998-2004

Andrew W. Mellon Fellow in Humanistic Studies, 1997-98

National Endowment for the Humanities Younger Scholar, 1995

TEACHING AWARDS

Nominated for the Providence College Joseph Accinno Teaching Award (competition ongoing)

TEACHING AWARDS, CONTINUED

UC Berkeley Teaching Effectiveness Award, 2005

Awarded to fewer than 1% of the graduate student instructors at Berkeley

Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor, UC Berkeley, 2003

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES

“What’s Wrong with Differential Punishment?” *Bowling Green Workshop on the Ethics of Policing and Prisons*, March 2016

“What’s Wrong with Differential Punishment?” *American Philosophical Division, Central Division, Main Program*. Chicago, March 2016

“What’s Wrong with Differential Punishment?” Guest lecture, Binghamton University, February 2016

“Kant’s Demonstration of Freedom in Its Legislative Aspect.” *North American Kant Society, Eastern Study Group*, Philadelphia, May 2014

“Kant’s Demonstration of Freedom in Its Legislative Aspect.” *American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, Main Program*. San Diego, April 2014

“Kant’s Demonstration of Freedom in Its Motivational Aspect.” *American Philosophical Association, Central Division, Main Program*. New Orleans, February 2013

“The Irrevocability of Capital Punishment.” *American Philosophical Association, Central Division, Main Program*. Minneapolis, April 2011

“The Irrevocability of Capital Punishment.” Invited Lecture, Philosophy Department Colloquium, George Mason University, April 2010

“Kant’s Justification of the Death Penalty Reconsidered.” *UK Kant Society*, Lancaster University, August 2009

“Responsibility and Revision: a Levinasian Argument for the Abolition of Capital Punishment.” *Levinas Research Seminar*, University of Toronto, June 2009

“Kant’s Justification of the Death Penalty Reconsidered.” *American Philosophical Association, Central Division, Main Program*. Chicago, April 2008

“Should I Not Kill? Could I Not Kill?: Levinas on Murder, Shame, and the Death Penalty.” *American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, Main Program*. Portland, March 2006

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES, CONTINUED

“Toward a Levinasian Abolitionism.” *Centennial Conference on Levinas and Law*, McGill University, Montreal, September 2006

“Freedom and Death.” *10th International Kant Congress*, University of Sao Paulo, Brazil, September 2005

“Meaningless Law.” *Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy*, Salt Lake City, October 2005

“The Painfulness of Pain: Toward an Abolitionist Theory of Human Dignity.” *Law, Culture, and the Humanities*, University of Connecticut, March 2004

“On the Necessity of the Death Penalty in Kant’s Moral and Political Philosophy.” *American Philosophical Association, Central Division, Main Program*. Cleveland, April 2003

“Abolitionism and the Problem of Kant.” *Law, Culture, and the Humanities*, New York University, March 2003

“How to Stop an Execution: Performativity in Emmanuel Levinas.” *Addressing Levinas*, Emory University, October 1999

“Is Levinas Postmodern?” Goshen College, January 1999

AREAS OF TEACHING INTEREST

Philosophy of punishment (esp. capital punishment and punishment and race), law and morality, critical race theory, philosophy of race, ethics, applied ethics, justice and inequality.

SELECTED TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Providence College

Social/Political Philosophy
Social/Political Philosophy (Honors)
Law and Morality
Current Problems in Ethics: Political Violence
Early Modern Philosophy
Ethics and the Common Good
General Ethics
Introduction to Philosophy
Development of Western Civilization (team taught)
 17th to 19th Century
 19th to 20th Century

Auburn Correctional Facility

Social/Political Philosophy

Cornell University

Kant and Constructivism (graduate)
Law, Society, & Morality
Philosophy of Law

Harvard University, College Writing Program

To What Question Is Law the Answer?

UC Berkeley

War and 'Human Nature'
What Is an Argument?

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Philosophical Association
Levinas Research Seminar
North American Kant Society
Association for Law, Culture, and the Humanities

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Referee: *Journal of the American Philosophical Association, Journal of Moral Philosophy, Journal of Social Philosophy, Journal of Law, Culture & the Humanities*

Secretary, Levinas Research Seminar, 2007-present

Associate Editor, *Qui Parle: Critical Humanities and Social Sciences*, 2000-2005

Providence College

Department Chair, 2016 - present

Promotion and Tenure Appeals Committee, 2014 - 2016

Philosophy Department Representative, Faculty Senate, 2014 - 2016

Ethics Bowl coach, 2014 - 2015

Search Committee, Ancient Logic, 2013-2014

Search Committee, Contemporary Analytic Philosophy, 2010-2011

Department Meeting Secretary, 2010-2011

Departmental Committee on Standardized Evaluations, 2009

Departmental Committee on Student Evaluations, 2008

ACADEMIC SERVICE, CONTINUED

Cornell University

Convenor, interdisciplinary research workshop on mass incarceration, 2012-2013

LANGUAGES

French: reading - proficient; speaking - proficient

German: reading - good; speaking – basic

REFERENCES

Prof. Judith Butler

Department of Comparative Literature
4125 Dwinelle Hall
University of California
Berkeley, CA 94720-2670

Prof. Andrew Chignell

Department of Philosophy
Claudia Cohen Hall
249 S. 36th Street
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6304

Prof. Diane Perpich

Department of Philosophy
Hardin Hall 126D
Clemson University
Clemson, SC 29631

Prof. Peter Costello

Department of Philosophy
Providence College
1 Cunningham Sq.
Providence, RI 02918

Prof. Nancy Sommers

429 Gutman
Graduate School of Education
Harvard University
Cambridge, MA 02138