

BENJAMIN S. YOST

Department of Philosophy
Providence College
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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Providence College, Department of Philosophy

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

Areas of Specialization: Kant, Normative Jurisprudence, Philosophy of Punishment, Levinas

Areas of Competence: Social/Political Philosophy, Phenomenology

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

EDUCATION

Ph.D. **University of California, Berkeley.** Rhetoric

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

B.A. **Goshen College**

BOOK

Against Capital Punishment (Oxford University Press, forthcoming 2018)

PUBLICATIONS

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

“What’s Wrong with Differential Punishment?” *Utilitas* 29.3. (2017)

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

PUBLICATIONS, 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

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

SELECTED AWARDS AND HONORS

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

North American Kant Society Travel Grant, 2005

One of two awarded to graduate papers at the 10th International Kant Congress

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 R. Accinno Teaching Award, 2016

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

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES, CONTINUED

“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

“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*

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

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

“Is Levinas Postmodern?” *Goshen College, January 1999*

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

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

SELECTED TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Providence College

Social/Political Philosophy

Social/Political Philosophy (Honors)

Free Will (senior seminar)

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

SELECTED TEACHING EXPERIENCE, CONTINUED

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?

AREAS OF TEACHING INTEREST

Kant's Practical Philosophy, Levinas, Philosophy of Law, Ethics (introduction and advanced), Applied Ethics, Social and Political Philosophy, Philosophy of Punishment

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Philosophical Association

Levinas Research Seminar

North American Kant Society

Association for Law, Culture, and the Humanities

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Referee: *De Ethica*, *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*, *Journal of Law, Culture & the Humanities*, *Journal of Moral Philosophy*, *Journal of Social Philosophy*, *North American Kant Society Biennial Meetings*, *Philosophical Papers*, *Philosophy and Public Issues*, *Social Theory and Practice*

Secretary, Levinas Research Seminar, 2007-present

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

Providence College

Department Chair, 2016 - present

ACADEMIC SERVICE, CONTINUED

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

Cornell University

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

LANGUAGES

French: reading - proficient; speaking - proficient
German: reading - good; speaking – basic