

# J. Joseph Porter

Janet Prindle Institute for Ethics and Department of Philosophy, DePauw University

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## Employment

### DePauw University

Greencastle, IN

*Janet Prindle Institute for Ethics*

Nancy Schaenen Endowed Visiting Scholar of Ethics

August 2022-present

Assistant Director of Academic Services

*Department of Philosophy*

Visiting Assistant Professor

August 2022-present

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## Education

### University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Chapel Hill, NC

Ph.D., Philosophy

May 2022

M.A., Philosophy

May 2018

### Harvard University

Cambridge, MA

M.T.S., New Testament and Early Christianity

May 2016

A.B., Philosophy (High Honors), *magna cum laude*

May 2012

Secondary Field in the Comparative Study of Religion

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## Languages

### Reading Proficiency

- Ancient: Greek, Latin, Hebrew
  - Modern: German, French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese
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## Research and Teaching Interests

### Areas of Specialization

- PPE (philosophy, politics, and economics)
- Social and political philosophy (especially democratic theory)
- Ethics (especially bioethics and animal ethics)

### Areas of Competence

- Business ethics
- Ancient philosophy
- History of philosophy (especially the history of political philosophy)
- Philosophy of religion
- Meta-ethics
- Free will

# Research

## Under Review

- Essay on existential risk and democracy (with Adam Gibbons; draft available upon request)

## In Progress

- “Power Laundering” (draft available upon request)
- “The Irresponsible Coercion Argument Against Democracy”
- “The Diminished Recognition Respect Argument Against Democracy”
- “Is Democracy the Most Stable Form of Government?” (draft available upon request)
- “The Expressive Duty Not to Vote”
- “The Duty to Avoid Preventable Bad Health” (draft available upon request)
- “Health and the Ethics of Eating Meat” (draft available upon request)
- “Rawls’ Argument from Self-respect” (draft available upon request)
- “The Market Capitalization Sleight of Hand” (with David Solomon; draft available upon request)
- “Bitcoin, Monetary Policy, and Justice” (with Alfredo Watkins)

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## Selected Presentations

- “The Expressive Duty Not to Vote” November 2023  
(PPE Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA)
- “Bitcoin, Monetary Policy, and Justice” October 2023  
(Markets & Society Conference, Falls Church, VA)
- “Explaining Liberalization: A Reply to Huemer” (invited) October 2023  
(UW-Milwaukee graduate seminar)
- “The Duty to Avoid Preventable Bad Health” August 2023  
(Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, Boulder, CO)
- “Power Laundering” April 2023  
(BGSU Workshop in Applied Ethics and Public Policy, Bowling Green, OH)
- “The Loss of Recognition Respect Argument Against Democracy” March 2023  
(APPE International Conference)
- “The Loss of Recognition Respect Argument Against Democracy” February 2023  
(APA Central Division Meeting, Denver, CO)
- “Power Laundering” November 2022  
(PPE Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA)
- “Two Arguments Against Democracy from Political Irresponsibility” April 2022  
(BGSU Workshop in Applied Ethics and Public Policy, Bowling Green, OH)
- “Self-respect and Equal Political Liberty” December 2021  
(Georgia Philosophical Society Online Workshop)
- “Existential Risk and Equal Political Liberty” October 2021  
(Rust Belt PPE Workshop)
- “Existential Risk and Equal Political Liberty” October 2021  
(International Symposium on Rawls)
- “Health and the Ethics of Eating Meat” April 2021  
(SCSP Annual Meeting, Spartanburg, SC)
- “Meat Me Halfway? Ethics and the Health of Animal-based Diets” March 2020  
(PPE Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA)
- “Explaining Normative Drift” March 2019  
(PPE Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA)

## Teaching

### DePauw University

Greencastle, IN

#### *Instructor of Record*

- HONR 102C. Utopias and Dystopias (first-year Honor Scholar seminar) Spring 2024
- Independent study on power in political thought Spring 2024
- ETS 291E. Prindle Reading Course: Jane Austen, *Emma* Spring 2024
- PHIL 101B. Introduction to Philosophy Fall 2023
- PHIL 234. Bioethics Spring 2023
- EXPB. Ethics in Action (course for Prindle interns) Spring 2023
- PHIL 101A. Introduction to Philosophy Fall 2022
- EXPA. Ethics in Action (course for Prindle interns) Fall 2022

#### *Co-instructor*

- PHIL 209B/BUS 209BC. The Ethics Project: What to Do with \$1,000 Spring 2024
- ETS 250. Ethics in Action (course for Prindle interns) Fall 2023

### University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Chapel Hill, NC

#### *Instructor of Record*

- PHIL 170. Social Ethics and Political Thought Spring 2022
- PHIL 165. Bioethics Summer 2021
- GRAD 721. Research Ethics Spring 2020
- PHIL 384. Gateway to Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Fall 2019
- PHIL 110. Introduction to Philosophy Through Great Works Summer 2019
- PHIL 165. Bioethics Spring 2019
- PHIL 155. Introduction to Mathematical Logic Summer 2018

#### *Teaching Assistant*

- PHIL 163H. Practical Ethics (departmental representative for the Robertson Fellowship's honors colloquium) Spring 2020
- PHIL 155. Introduction to Mathematical Logic Fall 2018
- PHIL 105. Critical Thinking Spring 2018
- PHIL 160. Introduction to Ethics Fall 2017

### University of Pennsylvania

Philadelphia, PA

#### *Teaching Assistant*

- PPE 101. Ethics and Economics of Wealth Creation Summer 2020

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## Selected Honors and Awards

- Summer Graduate Research Fellowship (Institute for Humane Studies) May 2022
- Adam Smith Fellowship (Mercatus Center) August 2021
- Don Lavoie Fellowship (Mercatus Center) January 2021
- Departmental Teaching Representative for the Robertson Fellowship Honors Colloquium (UNC-Chapel Hill) January 2020
- Adam Smith Fellowship (Mercatus Center) September 2019
- Adams Fellowship (UNC-Chapel Hill) September 2018
- Initiative for Minority Excellence Scholarship (UNC-Chapel Hill) March 2016
- Prize for Work in Moral and Political Philosophy (awarded for my undergraduate thesis; Harvard) July 2012
- Phi Beta Kappa (Harvard) May 2012

## Public Philosophy and Outreach

- Ethics workshop leader Fall 2023-present
  - Panelist, “The Ethics of Voting” February 2024
  - Express C.A.M.P. counselor July 2023
  - Panelist, “The Ethics of Genetic Enhancement” March 2023
  - Judge, Central Division High School Ethics Bowl February 2023
  - Judge, Indiana High School Ethics Bowl February 2023
  - Case writer, National High School Ethics Bowl Spring 2023-present
  - Participant, Fireside Chats at Asbury Towers Spring 2023
  - Discussant, “The Ethics of Eating Meat” October 2022
  - Volunteer, Philosophy by Mail with NC Prisons Outreach Program Fall 2021-Spring 2022
  - Organizer and co-host, “Afghanistan and American Foreign Policy: What Does the Future Hold?” October 2021
  - Organizer and co-host, “Bitcoin: What Does the Future Hold?” March 2021
  - Organizer and co-host, “What Can We Learn from ‘GameStopGate’?” February 2021
  - Organizer and host, “Beyond Policy: Human Perspectives on the Opioid Crisis” (full-day interdisciplinary workshop) February 2020
  - Leader, PPE Reading Group: *Love Your Enemies* Fall 2019
  - Judge, National High School Ethics Bowl April 2019
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## Service to the Profession

- Co-organizer and referee, Midwest Ethics Symposium April 2024
  - Referee, *The Journal of Ethics* Fall 2023-present
  - Referee and chair, PPE Society Annual Meeting November 2023
  - Reviewer, *Learning from Arguments: An Introduction to Philosophy* May 2023
  - Co-organizer and referee, Midwest Ethics Symposium April 2023
  - Co-organizer and chair, PPE Society Annual Meeting November 2022
  - Participant, manuscript workshop on Kevin Vallier’s *All the Kingdoms of the World: On Radical Religious Alternatives to Liberalism* March 2022
  - Co-organizer and chair, PPE Society Annual Meeting February 2022
  - Co-organizer, referee, and chair, PPE Society Annual Meeting March 2020
  - Chair, PPE Society Annual Meeting March 2019
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## Service to the University

### DePauw University

- Member, Spiritual Life Advisory Council Greencastle, IN Fall 2023-present
- Member, NEH Humanities Connections project grant proposal team Summer 2023-Fall 2023
- Volunteer logic tutor April 2023-July 2023
- Assistant coach, DePauw University Ethics Bowl Team Spring 2023-present
- Referee, Prindle Institute ethics reading courses Fall 2022-present
- Member, Prindle Institute Faculty Advisory Committee Fall 2022-present

### University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

- Member, PPE Hiring Committee Chapel Hill, NC Fall 2021-Spring 2022
- Member, PPE Graduate Advising Committee Fall 2020-Spring 2022
- Affiliated graduate student, PPE Program Fall 2019-Spring 2022
- Member, PPE Hiring Committee Fall 2019-Spring 2020

## Graduate Coursework

- Research Seminar in Value Theory, Simon Blackburn and Sarah Stroud Spring 2019
  - Modern Political Philosophy, Gerald Postema Spring 2019
  - Advanced Studies in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics, Luc Bovens Fall 2018
  - Empiricism, Alan Nelson Fall 2018
  - Advanced Studies in Value Theory, Mariska Leunissen and Rebecca Walker Spring 2018
  - Metaphysics, Peter van Inwagen (Duke University) Spring 2018
  - Plato, CDC Reeve Fall 2017
  - Rationalism, Alan Nelson Fall 2017
  - Research Seminar in Political Philosophy, Gerald Postema Fall 2017
  - Advanced Studies in Philosophy of Logic, Gillian Russell Spring 2017
  - Aristotle, Mariska Leunissen and CDC Reeve Spring 2017
  - Proto-Seminar in Philosophy, Alan Nelson and John Roberts Spring 2017
  - The Beginnings of Analytic Philosophy, Gillian Russell Spring 2017
  - Metaphysics, Thomas Hofweber Fall 2016
  - Research Seminar in Moral Theory, Douglas MacLean and Susan Wolf Fall 2016
  - Philosophy of Mind, Carla Merino-Rajme Fall 2016
  - Symbolic Logic, Thomas Hofweber Fall 2016
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## References

### Jeffrey Dunn

Phyllis W. Nicholas Executive Director, Janet Prindle Institute for Ethics  
DePauw University  
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### Hrishikesh Joshi

Assistant Professor of Philosophy  
University of Arizona  
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### Luc Bovens

Professor of Philosophy  
Core Faculty Member, Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Program  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
[lbovens@unc.edu](mailto:lbovens@unc.edu)

### Geoffrey Sayre-McCord

Morehead-Cain Alumni Distinguished Professor of Philosophy  
Director, Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Program  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
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### Gerald J. Postema

Professor Emeritus of Philosophy  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
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