

TRISTAN J. ROGERS

Department of Philosophy and Religious
Studies

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AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION Social and Political Philosophy
Ethics

AREAS OF COMPETENCE History of Philosophy
Applied Ethics

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Lecturer, California State University, East Bay (Fall 2018-Present)

Lecturer, California State University, Stanislaus (Fall 2018)

Instructor, Iowa Central Community College (Spring 2018)

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Philosophy, University of Arizona (2017)

Committee Daniel C. Russell (Chair), Julia Annas, David Schmitz, Fred Miller Jr.

Title *Virtue Politics*

Abstract Political philosophy was once dominated by discussion of the virtues of character and their importance to the good life and the good society. Contemporary political philosophers, however, following the towering influence of John Rawls, have primarily focused on a single virtue of institutions: justice, while largely avoiding controversial claims about the good life. As a result, political philosophy lacks a unified account of the virtues of institutions and the virtues of character. More importantly, we lack an understanding of the connection between the just society and the good life. This dissertation begins to mend this broken seam, which, on reflection, lies at the heart of our deepest political problems. The central argument is that the virtues of character require institutions, while good institutions enable persons to live together virtuously. Political institutions are a necessary precondition for the moral agency exhibited by the virtues. But *good* institutions enable virtue to grow, while helping to constrain the excesses of vice. On this view, justice emerges primarily as a virtue of character, not institutions. The just person balances conformity to existing institutional norms with practically wise reforms. Ultimately, this dissertation concludes that the just society and the good life are linked through the common good of virtuous activity within the shared institutions of a political community.

M.A., Philosophy, Queen's University (2011)

B.A. (Honors), Philosophy, Concordia University (2010)

PUBLICATIONS

"Justice as Lawfulness," *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*, Vol. 4, Issue 2 (Summer 2018), pp. 262-278

"Self-Ownership, World-Ownership, and Initial Acquisition," *Libertarian Papers*, Vol. 2, 36 (2010)

Book Review: Donaldson and Kymlicka, *Zoopolis: A Political Theory of Animal Rights*, *The Journal of Value Inquiry*, Vol. 46, Issue 4 (2012), pp. 503-510

WORK IN PROGRESS

"Neo-Aristotelian Liberalism and The Fact of Reasonable Pluralism", 28 pp. (under review)

"Virtue Ethics and Political Authority", 28 pp. (under review)

"Finding a Home for Conservatism", 14 pp.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Institute for Humane Studies Fellow (2011-2017)

Institute for Humane Studies Summer Research Fellow (2016)

Senator Frank Carrel Fellowship, Queen's University (2010-11)

Faculty of Arts and Science Scholar's Award, Concordia University (2010)

SELECT PRESENTATIONS

[Upcoming] "Love as a Virtue of Public Discourse", To What End? Narrative, Institutions, and Practices, Notre Dame University, Indiana, July 2019.

[Upcoming] "Finding a Home for Conservatism", International Social Philosophy Conference, San Francisco, California, July 2019.

"Aristotelian Ethics and The Fact of Reasonable Pluralism", American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, Vancouver, Canada, April 2019.

"A Social Practice View of 'Natural' Rights", American Philosophical Association, Central Division, Denver, Colorado, February 2019.

"Aristotelian Ethics and The Fact of Reasonable Pluralism", Philosophy Department Lecture Series, California State University, Stanislaus, December 2018.

"The Role of Political Institutions in Human Flourishing", First Annual Conference of the *Eudaimonia Institute*, April 2017.

"Commentary on Ryan Davis' 'Rational Persuasion's Symbolic Significance'", American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, Baltimore, MD, January 2017.

"Adam Smith on Public Education" & "Virtue, Freedom, and Property Rights", Association for Private Enterprise Education, Cancun, Mexico, April 2015.

"Virtue Ethics and Political Authority", American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, Vancouver, Canada, April 2015.

"Justice as a Virtue of Institutions and Individuals", American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division, Philadelphia, PA, December 2014.

"Plato on Happiness and Public Policy", Guest Lecture for Daniel Russell's "Philosophy of Happiness", University of Arizona, November 2013.

"Property Rights and the Law", Guest Lecture for Christopher Robertson's "Law Honors Symposium", University of Arizona, April 2013.

“The Libertarian Case for Open (or No) Borders,” COVE Graduate Ethics Conference, Carleton University, Ottawa, ON, May 2011.

“Are Liberty and Equality Compatible?,” Graduate Student Conference, Concordia University, Montreal, QC, April 2011.

“Mr. Morgan’s Yacht: From Liberty to Property”, *De Philosophia* Graduate Student Conference, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON, March 2011.

COURSES TAUGHT

Instructor

Bioethics (Fall and Spring 2019, California State University, East Bay)

Topics in medical ethics from a virtue ethics perspective, including informed consent, issues of life and death, abortion, euthanasia, and medical research/technology.

Critical Thinking (Fall 2018 and Spring 2019, California State University, East Bay)

Three-part course: 1) psychological obstacles to critical thinking, 2) deductive arguments, 3) inductive arguments. Topics include identifying arguments, validity, soundness, logical fallacies, inductive reasoning, and moral/legal reasoning.

Introduction to Philosophy (Fall 2018, California State University, Stanislaus)

Careful study of four classic texts: Plato’s Early Dialogues, Descartes’ *Meditations*, Mill’s *On Liberty*, and Hume’s *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*.

Contemporary Moral Issues (Fall 2018, California State University, Stanislaus)

Three-part course: 1) the ethical theories of Aristotle, Aquinas, Mill, and Kant, 2) the psychology of moral disagreement, 3) moral problems: abortion, immigration, racism, sexism, free speech, and gun control.

Introduction to Ethical Conflicts (Spring 2018, Iowa Central)

Topics in normative ethics and applied ethics including consequentialism, non-consequentialism, virtue ethics; euthanasia, abortion, sexual morality, and promising.

Introduction to Philosophy (Spring 2018, Iowa Central)

Survey of the major areas of philosophy from a historical perspective from the Pre-Socratics to 20th Century philosophy.

Law and Morality (Spring and Summer 2017, University of Arizona)

Topics in the philosophy of law including paternalism, legal moralism, freedom of speech, punishment, and civil disobedience. (online)

Business Ethics (Fall 2016, University of Arizona)

Topics in business ethics including the morality of markets, sweatshop labor, sexual harassment, social responsibility, and price-gouging. (online)

Medical Ethics (Spring 2016, University of Arizona)

Topics in medical ethics including the ethics of abortion, justice in healthcare, informed consent, paternalism, and euthanasia.

The Ethics and Economics of Wealth Creation (Winter 2016, University of Arizona)
A course in political economy focusing on ethics. Issues discussed included the nature of wealth creation, opportunity costs, prices, and property rights. (online)

The Social Contract (Summer 2015, University of Arizona)
A survey course of the major social contract philosophers and their critics, including Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Rawls, Hume, and Nussbaum. (online)

Contemporary Moral Problems (Winter 2013 and Summer 2012, University of Arizona)
Topics in applied ethics including the legalization of drugs, abortion, sexual harassment, affirmative action, and animal ethics. (online)

Teaching Assistant

Ancient Philosophy (Julia Annas, University of Arizona)
The Philosophy of Happiness (Daniel Russell, University of Arizona)
Critical Thinking (Jonathan Weinberg, University of Arizona)
Sex, Race, Drugs, and Power in the Supreme Court (Robertson, University of Arizona)
The Ethics and Economics of Wealth Creation (Steve Wall, University of Arizona)
Bioethics (Kerah Gordon-Solmon, Queen's University)
Introduction to Ethics (Paul Fairfield, Queen's University)

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Fred Miller Jr. (Spring 2015), new translation of Aristotle's *De Anima* and other psychological works (Oxford Classics, 2018).

GRADUATE COURSE WORK

Ethics and Political Philosophy

Moral Theory and Political Practice (Schmidtz)
Justice and the Good (Wall)
Moral and Social Evolution (Gaus)
Seminar on Political Authority (Christiano)
The Ethical Marketplace (Schmidtz)
Seminar on John Rawls (Gaus)
Social and Political Philosophy (Sypnowich, Queen's University)
Animal Ethics (Kymlicka, Queen's University)
Political Theory (Moore, Queen's University)
Bioethics (Gordon-Solmon, Queen's University)
Political Economy of Medicine (Sismondo, Queen's University)

History of Philosophy

Aristotle's Practical Philosophy (Annas)
Ancient Conceptions of Happiness (Russell)
Plato's Psychology (Kamtekar)
Ancient Conceptions of Evil (Kamtekar)
Empiricism (Owen)

Other

Seminar on Epistemology (Comesana)
Philosophy of Language (Cohen)
Cognitive Science Master's Seminar (Piattelli-Palmarini)
Metaphysics (Bakhurst, Queen's University)

LANGUAGES

Ancient Greek (reading)
Latin (reading)

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Philosophical Association

EDITORIAL WORK

Reviewer: *Social Theory and Practice*
Editorial Assistant: *Social Philosophy and Policy* (Fall 2012)

REFERENCES

Daniel C. Russell
Professor of Philosophy
University of Arizona
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danrussell@email.arizona.edu

Fred Miller Jr.
Research Professor
University of Arizona
520-621-3129
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520-621-5731
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J. Christopher Maloney (Teaching)
Professor of Philosophy
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