

# CHRISTA M. JOHNSON

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## PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Oberlin College	Visiting Assistant Professor, 2018-19 Visiting Instructor, 2017-18
The Ohio State University	Graduate Administrative Associate, Center for Ethics and Human Values, 2013-17 Graduate Teaching Associate, 2011-17 Graduate Administrative Associate, Department of Philosophy, 2016 University Fellow, 2010-11
Denison University	Visiting Instructor, Autumn 2014, Autumn 2015

## EDUCATION

The Ohio State University	Ph.D., Philosophy, 2018 Dissertation: <i>How to be a Nonconsequentialist: A Defense of Deontological Constraints</i> Advisors: Justin D'Arms, Piers Turner
Ursinus College	B.A., Distinguished Honors, Philosophy and Psychology, 2009

**AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION** Ethics, Moral Psychology

**AREAS OF COMPETENCE** Social and Political Philosophy, Applied Ethics (including environmental and bioethics), Logic, Philosophy of Religion

## PUBLICATIONS

“Understanding for Hire” (co-authored with Daniel Wilkenfeld), forthcoming in *Journal for General Philosophy of Science*

## UNDER REVIEW

“The Intrapersonal Paradox of Deontology”  
“Why Consequentialize?”  
“Resolutions, Salient Reasons, and Weakness of Will”

## PRESENTATIONS

*Talks* (\* denotes invited)

“The Neutrality of Agent-Relative Reasons (and the Relativity of Agent-Relative Good)”  
Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, August 2018  
“On Tomboys and Sissies: How to Do Away with Bigenderism” Drag Ball Workshop,  
Oberlin College, April 2018\*  
“Thresholds for Constraints” Department of Philosophy Colloquium, New Mexico State  
University, January 2018\*  
“Resolutions, Salient Reasons, and Weakness of Will” Eastern Meeting of the APA, January  
2018  
“Why Consequentialize?” Pacific Meeting of the APA, April 2017  
“The Intrapersonal Paradox of Deontology” Pacific Meeting of the APA, April 2016  
“The Intrapersonal Paradox of Deontology” Indiana Philosophical Association Meeting,  
November 2015  
“Moral Reasons and the Paradox of Deontology” Conference of the Felician Institute for  
Ethics and Public Affairs, April 2014  
“Moral Reasons and the Paradox of Deontology” Indiana Philosophical Association  
Meeting, March 2014  
“Christianity and Homosexuality” The Amiable Association of Articulate Atheists, Agnostics,  
and Adherents, May 2013\*  
“Resolutions, Salient Reasons, and Weakness of Will” University of Waterloo Graduate  
Conference in Philosophy, March 2013  
“OCD and Free Agency” Moral Psychology Research Group Meeting, November 2012\*  
“A Fresh Take on the Non-Identity Problem” Southeast Philosophy Congress, February  
2009

*Comments*

On Keyao Yang’s “Calm Mathematics, Stormy Normativity” Ohio Philosophical Association  
Meeting, April 2018  
On Amichai Amit’s “Identification and Justifications” Central Meeting of the APA, February  
2018  
On Jonathan Milad’s “Intention and Permissibility” Central Meeting of the APA, March  
2017  
On Damian Melamedoff’s “Immediate Justification and the Premise Principle” UIUC  
Graduate Conference, April 2016  
On Timothy Perrine’s “Evidentialism, Knowledge, and Evidence Possession” Indiana  
Philosophical Association Meeting, November 2015  
On Andrew Greenlee’s “Reasons Explanations and Normative Significance” Central Meeting  
of the APA, February 2015  
  
On David Schwan’s “Empathy as Affective Prospective-Taking without Affective Matching”

Ohio Philosophical Association Meeting, April 2014  
On Griffin Klemick's "Between Bare Subjects and Strongest Desires" Illinois Philosophical  
Association Meeting, November 2013

## AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

APA Graduate Student Travel Grant, 2016, 2017, 2018  
Philosophy Department Travel Grant, Ohio State University, 10 from 2013-17  
Philosophy Graduate Teaching Associate Award, Ohio State University, 2015  
Distinguished University Fellowship, Ohio State University, 2010-14  
American Graduate Fellowship, Council of Independent Colleges, 2009, *declined*  
William B. Williamson Prize in Philosophy, Ursinus College, 2009  
Peters Prize in Philosophy, Ursinus College, 2008

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

*As a sole instructor* (at Oberlin College)

Social, Political, and Legal Philosophy (Scheduled: Sp19)  
Food Ethics (Scheduled: Sp19)  
Character Wars: What is Virtue and (How) Can We Attain It? (Au18)  
Philosophy and Morality (five sections, Au17 - Au18)  
Topics in Applied Ethics (Sp18)  
Mind and Morals (Au17)

*As an advisor* (at Oberlin College)

Independent Reading: *Infinite Jest*: Philosophy of Love and Addiction (Au18)  
Independent Reading: Animal Cognition and Ethics (Au17)

*As a sole instructor* (at The Ohio State University)

Informal Logic/Critical Thinking (May14, Su14, May17)  
Contemporary Moral Problems (Sp15, Sp16)  
Introduction to Ethics (Su13, Au13)

*As a sole instructor* (at Denison University)

Introduction to Philosophy (four sections, Au14 - Au15)  
Moral Psychology (Au15)  
Symbolic Logic (Au14)

*As a teaching assistant* (at The Ohio State University)

Introduction to Philosophy (Au11, Sp13)  
Symbolic Logic (Wi12, Sp12, Au12)  
Philosophy of Religion (Au12)

*Guest lecture* (at Denison University)

Cyber Ethics (one lecture, Au16)

*Guest lecture* (at The Ohio State University)

Advanced Moral Philosophy (one lecture, Sp16)  
Philosophy of Religion (two lectures, Au12)

## GRADUATE COURSEWORK

(\* denotes audit)

*Value Theory*

Philosophy in Literature, *Infinite Jest* (Tim Schroeder)  
Shared Agency (Abe Roth)  
Relational Normativity (Abe Roth)  
Kinds of Value (Justin D'Arms)  
Metaethics after Moore (Sigrun Svavarsdottir)  
Distributive Justice (Don Hubin)  
Emotion (Justin D'Arms) \*  
Ascriptions of Value (Sigrun Svavarsdottir) \*  
Rational Sentimentalism (Justin D'Arms) \*  
Moral Realism (Sigrun Svavarsdottir) \*  
Reasons (Nate Sharadin) \*

*History*

Kant (Lisa Shabel)  
Hume (Sigrun Svavarsdottir)  
Mill (Piers Turner)  
Locke (Lisa Downing)

*Logic, Language, and Science*

Advanced Symbolic Logic (Neil Tennant)  
Methodological Naturalism (Kevin Scharp)  
Testimony (William Taschek and Abe Roth)  
Explanation (Richard Samuels)

*Mind, Metaphysics, and Epistemology*

Introspection (Declan Smithies)  
Lewis's *On the Plurality of Worlds* (David Sanson)  
Philosophy of Mind and Action (Abe Roth) \*

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

Conference Co-Organizer

(conferences sponsored by the Center for Ethics and Human Values at Ohio State)

April 2018: Spring COMPAS Conference - Religion in Global Context  
January 2018: Spring COMPAS Conference - Religion and the State  
September 2017: Fall COMPAS Conference - Religious Freedom  
March 2017: Spring COMPAS Conference - On Global Inequality  
February 2017: Non-Ideal Climate Justice: Global Inequality, the Paris Agreement, and the Limits of the Feasible  
September 2016: Fall COMPAS Conference - When Do Inequalities Matter?  
April 2016: Moral Algorithms: The Ethics of Autonomous Vehicles  
January 2016: Spring COMPAS Conference - Realizing Sustainability  
October 2015: Fall COMPAS Conference - Sustainability: Visions and Values  
April 2014: Spring COMPAS Conference - Public/Private  
October 2013: Fall COMPAS Conference - Public/Private

Referee, Ohio Philosophical Association Meeting, 2018

Graduate Representative, Department of Philosophy, Ohio State University, 2012-15  
Treasurer, The Consilience Project, Ohio State University, 2012-14  
Treasurer, Graduate Philosophy of Religion Group, Ohio State University, 2012-14  
Ombudsperson, Department of Philosophy, Ohio State University, 2012-13  
Co-Organizer, Graduate Philosophy Retreat, Ohio State University, 2011-16  
Co-Leader, Undergraduate Philosophy Retreat, Ohio State University, 2011-13

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

The American Philosophical Association  
The Ohio Philosophical Association

## DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

### How to be a Nonconsequentialist: A Defense of Deontological Constraints

In my dissertation, I propose and defend a nonconsequentialist view that is able to stave off both paradox and triviality, something I argue other versions of nonconsequentialism have failed to do. Beginning with triviality, I address what has been dubbed the consequentializing project, according to which all theories of right action can be turned into consequentialist ones. I argue that even if we *can* consequentialize, we ought not to insofar as the complications that arise when consequentializing ultimately undermine the theoretical benefits of consequentialism, and indeed, result in a number of theoretical costs. I then turn to two forms of the paradox of deontology. The original paradox concerns what agents ought to do when a single constraint violation would prevent a greater number of constraint violations overall. I raise worries for the solutions to this interpersonal paradox in the literature, arguing first that agent-neutrality cannot successfully address the concern, and second that a successful view must not only include agent-relative constraint-based reasons, but also leave room for other kinds of moral reasons. This agent-relative response leads to an underappreciated second paradox, what I call the *intrapersonal* paradox of deontology. I argue that agents may not permissibly violate a constraint even to prevent a greater number of their own constraint violations. In order to capture this claim, I argue that constraints are both agent- and time-relative. Finally, I turn to the issue of thresholds for constraints, i.e. moderate as opposed to absolute deontology. I show that the idea of permissible constraint infringements can be captured by a thoroughgoing deontological view if we attend, first, to the moral emotion of tragic-remorse and, second, to the need to *acknowledge* the dignity of others.