

Kerah Gordon-Solmon

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RESEARCH AREAS

Moral and Political philosophy, Practical Ethics

EMPLOYMENT

2016- Associate Professor of Philosophy, Queen's University
2009-2016 Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Queen's University

EDUCATION

2003-2012 D.Phil., University of Oxford
2008-2009 Visiting Assistant in Research, Yale University
2005-2008 Special Visiting Doctoral Student, Columbia University
2003. M.Phil. in Philosophy, University of Cambridge
2002. B.A. (Hons.) in Philosophy, McGill University

VISITING POSITIONS

July 2018 Visiting Fellow, Department of Philosophy, Australian National University
2016-17 Visiting Professor, Centre for Ethics, the University of Toronto

EDITORIAL POSITIONS

2020- Associate Editor, *Journal of Moral Philosophy*
2019- Editorial Team, *PEA Soup*

AWARDS

- 2021-2024 SSHRC (Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada) Insight Grant, \$67,916
- 2005-2007 SSHRC Doctoral Student Award
- 2003-2005 ORS (Overseas Research Student) Award for study at the University of Oxford

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed Publications

“Should Contractualists Decompose?” *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, 47 (3) (2019): 259-287

“Not as a Means: Killing as a Side Effect in Self-Defense,” *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, 100 (4) (2019): 1074-1090

“What Makes a Person Liable to Defensive Harm?” *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 97 (3) (2018): 543-567

“Comparative Desert Vs. Fairness,” *Law and Philosophy*, 36 (4) (2017): 367–387

“Self-Defense Against Multiple Threats,” *Journal of Moral Philosophy*, 14 (2) (2017): 125-133

“Why More Choice is Sometimes Worse than Less,” *Law and Philosophy*, 36 (1) (2017): 25-44

“Luck, Love, and Extreme Skiing: Distributive Injustice without Unfairness,” *Moral Philosophy and Politics* 3 (1) (2016): 119-133

“Can Comparative Desert Do without Equality,” *Philosophical Papers* 44 (2) (2015): 189-205

“Whom Should We Enhance? The Problem of Altering Potential,” *Journal of Moral Philosophy* 12 (6) (2015): 731-753

Book Reviews

Review of *Ethics Without Intention* by Ezio Di Nucci, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 94 (4) (2016): 837

Others

“[A Tangled Loop](#),” *Pea Soup*, June 2, 2021

“[Trolley Follies](#),” *Pea Soup*, July 24, 2019. ([Winner](#) of the Normative Ethics July prize).

PRESENTATIONS

“The Curious Case of Secondary Permissibility”

- St. Andrew’s Workshop on Rights: Rights and Harms (Zoom event), University of St. Andrew’s, Scotland, May 2021

“Between All and Nothing: Or, Defending the Impermissible”

- Work in Progress Seminar Series, Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, Oxford University, Oxford, UK (Zoom talk), October 2020
- Bioethics Colloquium Series, NYU, New York, New York (Zoom talk), October 2020
- All or Nothing Workshop Miniseries, international virtual workshop (Zoom talk), August 2020
- Dianoia Institute of Philosophy, Australian Catholic University, Melbourne, Australia (Zoom talk), July 2020

“Lesser-Evil Justifications”

- Invited panel on self-defense, American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting, Vancouver, British Columbia, April 2019

“Not as a Means: Killing as a Side Effect in Self-Defense”

- Thursday Seminar Talk, Department of Philosophy, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia, July 2018
- Early Career Conference in Moral and Political Philosophy, Humboldt Universitat zu Berlin, Berlin, Germany, December 2017
- American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting, San Francisco, California, March 30-April 3, 2016
- Department of Philosophy Colloquium Series, Ethics and Politics Group Talk, The University of Toronto, December 2015 (invited paper)
- Nathanson Centre, Osgoode Hall, Toronto, Ontario, October 2015 (invited paper)
- Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress (RoME), Boulder, Colorado, August 2015

“Egalitarianism for Girls”

- Ethics at Noon, Centre for Ethics, University of Toronto, November 2016 (invited paper)

“Self-Defense Against Multiple Threats”

- Northwestern University Society for the Theory of Ethics and Politics (NUSTEP), Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, May 2015
- American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting, Vancouver, British Columbia, April 2015

“Fairness and Liability to Defensive Harm”

- American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting, San Diego, California, April 2014

“Whom Should We Enhance? The Problem of Altering Potential”

- Department of Philosophy Colloquium Series, York University, Toronto, Ontario, January 2013 (invited paper)
- Department of Philosophy Colloquium Series, Queen’s University, Kingston, Ontario, January 2009 (invited paper)

“Luck, Love, and Extreme Skiing: Why Egalitarians Shouldn’t Aim to Neutralize Luck”

- The Jackman Humanities Institute, The University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, February, 2009 (invited paper)

Invited Commentaries

“Deontological Decision Theory and Lesser Evil Options: Commentary on Seth Lazar”

- Australian National University Workshop on Ethics and Risk, Canberra, Australia, July 2018

“Intentions and Humanitarian Interventions: Commentary on Helen Frowe”

- Wrongs Across Borders conference, Osgoode Hall, Toronto, Ontario, April 2014

“Valuing Persons with Disabilities Vs. Valuing Disabilities,” respondent to Sahar Akhtar,

- DeCamp Bioethics Seminar, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey, September 2007

Invited Participant/Session Chair

Workshop on Adil Haque’s book manuscript *Law and Morality at War*, Georgetown Law Center, Georgetown, D.C., April 2016

The Value of Equality workshop, The Centre for Ethics, The University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, March 2014

The Ethics of Self-Defense, Bowling Green State University Workshop in Applied Ethics and Public Policy, Bowling Green, Ohio, April, 2013

TEACHING (at Queen's University)

Lecture Courses and Seminars

Phil 157 (Moral Issues)

Phil 247 (Practical Ethics)

Phil 271 (Philosophy and Literature)

Phil 301 (Bioethics)

Phil 343 (Political Philosophy)

Phil 390 (Philosophical Practice)

Phil 403/803 (Moral Philosophy II: The Ethics of Procreation)

Phil 803 (Moral Philosophy II: The Ethics of Self-Defense)

Phil 803 (Moral Philosophy II: Duties, Constraints, Prerogatives, and Permissions)

Phil 803 (Moral Philosophy II: Current Themes in Moral and Political Philosophy)

Undergraduate Supervision

Winter, 2019 Supervisor, Sam Roman, Undergraduate Independent Study Project:
"Reductivist vs. Non-Reductivist Approaches to Just Conduct in War"

Winter, 2015 Supervisor, Dalia Yashinsky, Undergraduate Independent Study Project:
"Identifying Subordination in Kamm's Principle of Permissible Harm"

Winter, 2012 Supervisor, Liz McFadden, Undergraduate Independent Study Project:
"Broadening the Scope of Epistemic Justification: A Response to Jeff McMahan's *Killing in War*"

2010-2011 Supervisor, Jordan Mackenzie, BA Honours Thesis: "Valuing What Exists: A Defence of Our 'Conservative Bias' in Favour of Presently Existing Entities"

Graduate Supervision

Fall 2020 2nd reader, Gordon Schneider, MA Thesis: "Intention in Contractualism: A Basic Wrong-Making Feature?"

Summer 2018 2nd reader, Jennifer Guiho, MA Thesis: "Finding a Balance: Coercion, Autonomy and Biomedical Moral Enhancement"

Spring 2014-Fall 2014	Supervisor, James Murray, MA Thesis: “Beyond Moral Responsibility and Lesser Evils: Moral Desert as a Supplementary Justification for Defensive Killing”
Summer/Fall 2014	2 nd reader, Ian Allen, MA Thesis: “Intractable Difficulties for the Doctrine of Double Effect: The Problem of Closeness and Proper Focus of Concern”
Spring 2012-Summer 2014	2 nd reader, Christine Esselmont, PhD Dissertation “The Fairness of Blame”
Spring 2012-Summer 2013	2 nd reader, Andrew P. Ross, PhD Dissertation “The Authority of Deontic Constraints”
Summer 2012-Fall 2013	PhD Comprehensives Committee Member, Ryan McSheffrey
Spring/Summer 2012	Supervisor, Morgan Teeple Hopkins, MA Thesis: “Adopting Obligations: Duties to Existing Children”
Fall 2011	Supervisor, Morgan Teeple Hopkins, Graduate Independent Study Project: “Adopting Obligations: Duties to Existing Children”

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Departmental Service

Chair of Undergraduate Studies (July 2021-June 2024)
 Undergraduate Writing Tutors Coordinator (winters of 2020-22)
 Strategic Planning Committee (2017-2022)
 Nominating Committee (2017-19, 2015-16, 2010-12)
 Board of Undergraduate Studies (2014-16, winter 2011, 2009-10)
 Appointments Committee (2010-15)
 Board of Graduate Studies (2013-14)
 Colloquium Coordinator (2012-13)
 Colloquium Committee (2011-2012)

Other Professional Service

August-September 2020 Organizer/convener of the All or Nothing Workshop Miniseries, an international virtual workshop.

Referee for *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*; *Bioethics*; *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*; *Criminal Law and Philosophy*; *Journal of Moral Philosophy*; *Journal of Philosophy*; *Law and Philosophy*; *Mind*; *Nous*; *Philosophical Studies*; *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*; *Politics, Philosophy and Economics*; *Social Theory and Practice*