

AARON J. YARMEL

Center for Ethics and Human Values
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AOS: Applied Ethics, Philosophy of Education

AOC: Business Ethics, Normative Ethics, Philosophy of Science

EDUCATION

Ph.D. 2022: Philosophy, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Dissertation: *Essays in Rules for Activism*
Committee: Harry Brighouse (Chair), Robert Streiffer, Elliott Sober, Pamela Oliver

M.A. 2017: Philosophy, University of Wisconsin-Madison

M.Sc. 2013: Philosophy of Science, London School of Economics

B.M. 2011: Applied Music (Violin), Eastman School of Music

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2022-Present	Associate Director Center for Ethics and Human Values The Ohio State University
2026-Present	Physicians Coach The James Comprehensive Cancer Center

Updated September 3, 2026

PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- Forthcoming (with Jonathan Lang). “The Ethics of Customizable AI-Generated Pornography.” *The Journal of Ethics*.
- Forthcoming (with Ariel Sykes). “Who Has the Standing to Critique Teachers for Not Holding Controversial Ethics Dialogues?” In *Handbook of Ethics and Teaching*, edited by Ben Paxton, Winston Thompson, Janet Orchard, and Daniella Forster. London: Bloomsbury.
- Forthcoming (with Judith Carlisle). “Honesty First vs. Satire and Irony: Articulating a Middle Ground.” *Disputatio*.
- 2026. “Towards a Theory of Inquiry Dialogue Questions.” *Educational Theory*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/edth.70102>
- 2026. “Using AI to Reduce Distortive Factors in Inquiry Dialogues.” *AI & Society*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00146-026-03114-6>
- 2025 (co-authored with Maughn Rollins Gregory). “Noise Reduction in the Community of Philosophical Inquiry.” *Journal of Philosophy of Education* 60 (3): 421–46. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jopedu/qhaf059>
- 2024. “Social Roles and Meaningful Lives.” *Analytic Teaching and Philosophical Praxis* 44 (2): 14–27. <https://eric.ed.gov/?id=EJ1459155>
- 2021. “On Choosing Where to Stand: Selecting a Social Movement Approach.” *Social Theory and Practice* 47 (2): 425–49. <https://doi.org/10.5840/soctheorpract2021420128>
- 2018. “Between Crisis-Philia and Crisis-Phobia: Reflections on the Community of Inquiry.” *Analytic Teaching and Philosophical Praxis* 39 (1): 46–64. <https://journal.viterbo.edu/index.php/atpp/article/view/1162>

Articles Under Peer Review

- “Why Students Resist Thought Experiments and What to Do About It” (Under Review)
- “The Cognitive Structure of Two-Level Utilitarianism: A Newtonian Defense of Psychological Coherence” (Under Review)

Academic Book Reviews

- Yarmel, Aaron. 2024. Review of *Why Teach Philosophy in Schools? The Case for Philosophy on the Curriculum*, by Jane Gatley. *Theory and Research in Education* 22 (1): 110–13. <https://doi.org/10.1177/14778785241229577>
- Yarmel, Aaron. 2023. Review of *Philosophy with Children and Teacher Education: International Perspectives on Critical, Creative and Caring Thinking*, edited by Arie Kizel. *Analytic Teaching and Philosophical Praxis* 43 (2): 95–101. <https://journal.viterbo.edu/index.php/atpp/article/view/1239>
- Yarmel, Aaron. 2022. Review of Gareth B. Matthews, *The Child’s Philosopher*, edited by Maughn Rollins Gregory and Megan Jane Laverty. *Journal of Philosophy in Schools* 9 (2): 114–18. <https://doi.org/10.46707/jps.9ii.158>

Works in Progress

- “Between Denial and Trespassing: respecting students’ inner worlds”
- “Inflating the Decision Space: Stipulation, Plot, and Resistance to Thought Experiments”
- “Open Rescue: its method, levels, and point,” with David Killoren
- “A Theory of Human/AI Interaction in Higher Education,” with Dominik Stecula and Scott Campbell

GRANTS

- Multi-Ethnic Cultural Reproductions in the Middle East, Arts and Humanities Exchange Program, The Ohio State University, in partnership with the Middle East Studies Center and the Melton Center for Jewish Studies: \$65,000, 2025–2027
- Instructional Continuity Small Grant, University of Wisconsin-Madison: 2020
- Student Research Grants Competition, University of Wisconsin-Madison: 2019
- Graduate Public Humanities Exchange (HEX) grant, University of Wisconsin-Madison: 2018, funding Madison Public Philosophy’s partnership with the Madison Metropolitan School District
- APA Teaching Fund grant, American Philosophical Association: 2017, supporting Madison Public Philosophy’s fiscal receivership with the Center for Community Stewardship
- Centre for Effective Altruism grant: 2017, hosting a conference on high-impact career choices

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Capstone Teaching Award, University of Wisconsin-Madison: 2020
- Berent Enç Graduate Teaching Award, Department of Philosophy, University of Wisconsin-Madison: 2020
- Letters and Science Teaching Fellow, University of Wisconsin-Madison: 2018

PRESENTATIONS & LECTURES

Selected Academic Presentations

- “Toward a Humane Music Education: Research in Inquiry-Based Teaching and Learning,” College Music Society National Conference, 2026
- “Dialogue Across Divides,” The University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for Ethics and Education, Madison, WI, 2025 (Invited Talk)
- “Taking the Community of Philosophical Inquiry Outside the Classroom,” PLATO Conference, Boston, MA, 2025
- “Civic Dialogue,” Ohio Civic Center Symposium, Salmon P. Chase Center for Civics, Society, and Culture, Ohio State University (Invited Roundtable Participant), 2025
- “The Ethics of Customizable AI-Generated Pornography,” co-presented with Jonathan

- Lang, Midwest Ethics Symposium, Greencastle, IN, 2024
- “Social Roles and Meaningful Lives,” North American Association for Philosophy of Education, Mundelein, IL, 2024
- “What can “Philosophy for Children” offer to Decolonization?”, Symposium Session, American Philosophical Association, Central Division, Chicago, IL, 2023
- “When Roles Conflict,” Philosophy and Education Colloquium Series, Teachers College, Columbia University (Invited Talk), 2022
- “A P4C Journey in Wisconsin,” PLATO Conference, Seattle, WA, 2022
- “On Choosing Where to Stand: selecting a strategic orientation in a social movement,” Workshop on the Philosophy of Activism, Manchester, UK, 2020
- “Philosophy of Infighting,” Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, Boulder, CO, 2019
- “Justice in the Classroom: Lessons from the Community of Philosophical Inquiry,” American Philosophical Association, Central Division, Denver, CO, 2019
- “What Can Philosophers Do?” Boston University Graduate Student Conference, Boston, MA, 2018
- “Minding the Gap: P4C and Arendt’s Crisis in Education,” Ohio Valley Philosophy of Education Society, Mundelein, IL, 2017
- “Explanations in Music Theory,” Illinois Philosophical Association, Normal, IL, 2014; Central States Philosophical Association, Evanston, IL, 2014
- “Mechanistic Explanations in Music Theory: Lessons from Biology and Physical Geology,” European Society for Aesthetics, Prague, Czech Republic, 2013; Alabama Philosophical Society, Pensacola, FL, 2013
- “Performing Platonist Types,” Performance Philosophy Network, Reading, United Kingdom, 2013
- “Musical States of Affairs: Platonist Realism and Musical Explanation,” Royal Music Association, Nottingham, United Kingdom, 2012
- “Interlevel Mechanistic Composition in Musical Ontology,” Midsouth Philosophy Conference, 2012

Invited Public Lectures & Community Panels

- TEDxOhioStateUniversity: “How (not) to answer life’s biggest questions” (2026)
- The Siposium, Seventh Son Brewing, Columbus: “Beyond the Echo Chamber: How to Talk to Someone You Think Is Completely Wrong”, public workshop on inquiry dialogue (2026)
- Wexner Center for the Arts: moderator, post-screening panel on *War Game* with Laura Dugan and Dakota Rudesill (2024)
- The Ohio State University: “Navigating Conflict with Skillful Communication”, campus-wide public dialogue with Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar (2023)

Selected Public & Activist Presentations

- “Challenging Conversations about Veganism,” Madison Vegan Fest, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025
- “Inquiry Dialogue,” Kava Talk at Casa Cacao, 2025
- “Dialogue Facilitation in Activist Communities,” Animal Liberation Conference, 2021

- “On the Ethics of Infighting,” Animal Liberation New York Conference, 2020 (postponed due to Covid-19); Animal Liberation Toronto Conference, 2019
- “Let’s Talk!”, Milwaukee Vegan Expo, 2019; Madison Vegan Expo, 2019
- “Exchange, Appreciation, Appropriation, and Assimilation,” Sound Out Loud, 2018
- “The Drowning Children Among Us,” Arts + Literature Laboratory, 2017
- “Allegory of the Cave,” Compleat Stage: Root Series, 2014
- “When We Love We Risk Death,” Compleat Stage: Root Series, 2014
- “Seeing Our Reflections in the Myth of Narcissus,” Compleat Stage: Root Series, 2014
- “Suspicion With New Tools,” Reading at 10 Gallery, 2014

TEACHING

The Ohio State University (instructor of record)

- Conversations on Morality, Politics, and Society (COMPAS): Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Fall 2024, Fall 2025, Fall 2026
- Contemporary Social and Moral Problems in the U.S.: Spring 2023
- Computing Ethics for a Just and Diverse World: Spring 2024
- Environmental Ethics: Spring 2025
- Teaching Philosophy: Spring 2026
- Social and Political Philosophy: scheduled Spring 2027

University of Wisconsin-Madison (instructor of record)

- The Ethics of Business: Summer 2017, Summer 2018, Spring 2019, Summer 2020, Fall 2020, Fall 2021
- Contemporary Moral Issues: Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2019
- Pandemic Ethics: Fall 2020 (Division of Continuing Studies)
- The Ethics of Revolution and Resistance: Fall 2016

Teaching Assistant, University of Wisconsin-Madison

- History of Ancient Philosophy: Fall 2016
- Introduction to Ethics: Spring 2016
- Ethics in Business: Fall 2015
- Introduction to Philosophy: Fall 2014, Spring 2015

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

- Philosophy Learning and Teaching Organization (PLATO): Board Member (2023-Present); instructor of Philosophy for Children workshops (2022-Present)
- Ethics Bowl: coach, The Ohio State University (2026-Present); coach, University of Wisconsin-Madison (2021-2022); judge, High School Ethics Bowl, New York City (2021, 2023); judge, Middle School Ethics Bowl, New York City and New Jersey (2022)
- Institute for the Advancement of Philosophy for Children (IAPC): Endorsed Practitioner;

co-instructor (with Ariel Sykes) of the IAPC's online course in philosophical dialogue facilitation (2023-Present)

- *Analytic Teaching and Philosophical Praxis*: Editorial Board Member (2023-Present)
- Referee: *Analytic Teaching and Philosophical Praxis*; *Journal of Philosophy in Schools*; Routledge (book manuscripts)

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP

Center for Ethics and Human Values, The Ohio State University (2022-Present)

- Program oversight: oversee CEHV's core programming, including dialogue facilitation, civic outreach, skill-building, and the ETHOS Fellows program within the university's Shared Values Initiative.
- Buckeye Day of Dialogue: co-created and facilitated the university's first campus-wide day of dialogue (2026); the inaugural event filled the Ohio Union Performance Hall with approximately 150 students, faculty, staff, and university leadership, including the president, for an unscripted inquiry dialogue on free speech and campus protests, with topics chosen by attendees in real time.
- *Listen. Learn. Discuss.*: co-developed this university-wide civil discourse initiative and serve on its leadership team, building programming that trains students, faculty, and staff.
- Workshop facilitation: facilitated more than ninety dialogue facilitation and pedagogy workshops since 2023, solo or with CEHV colleagues, reaching more than 2,000 recorded participants across Ohio State departments, scholars programs, residence halls, and medical units.
- Selected workshop clients: the National League of Cities, the American Association of University Women, The James Nursing Leadership Forum, WOSU Public Media, the Stefanie Spielman Comprehensive Breast Center, OSU Physicians, Inc., the Ohio Colleges of Medicine Government Resource Center, OSU Extension's AmeriCorps Health program, and the Mosaic Program (Educational Service Center of Central Ohio).
- Peer institutions: delivered a dialogue facilitation workshop series at Yale University (2026) and at Dalton State College's Constitution Week (2025).
- Student dialogue training: designed and continue to manage a program preparing undergraduate and graduate students to lead dialogues in residence halls, scholars programs, and co-curricular settings.

Public Philosophy and Community Programs

- Founder and Director, Philosophy For and With Children Academy, The Ohio State University (u.osu.edu/p4wc): 2022-Present. Trains undergraduate and graduate students to facilitate philosophical dialogues in Columbus K–12 schools.

- Founder and Director, Philosophy Counseling and Consulting: 2020-Present. Philosophical counseling in the Logic-Based Therapy tradition and dialogue facilitation workshops.
- Founding Director, Madison Public Philosophy: 2016–2022. Public philosophy organization running Philosophy for Children programs and dramatized philosophical performances in partnership with Madison schools, community centers, and camps; oversaw facilitator training, community partnerships, and grant funding.

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP & MEDIA FOOTPRINT

Op-Eds and Essays

- *Isthmus*: “How the Tactic of ‘Open Rescue’ Came to Wisconsin” (2026)
- *The Cap Times*: “Animal cruelty an issue where right and left can agree” (2025)
- *The Columbus Dispatch*: “Were OSU students protesting against oppression or being antisemitic? Perspective matters.” (2024)
- *The Columbus Dispatch*: “Jewish, Palestinian students are terrified. Why colleges must try what Ohio State is doing.” (2024)
- *Columbus Free Press*: “Animal Exploitation Viewed Through the Extraterrestrial Mirror” (2023)
- *The Cap Times*: “Classrooms and society need balance of structure and freedom” (2019)
- *Blog of the American Philosophical Association*: “Sneak Peak of Forthcoming Presentation at the Central APA: Let’s Inquire About Sex!” (2019)
- *Blog of the American Philosophical Association*: “Exploring Plato’s Cave With Young People” (2018)
- *The Cap Times*: “‘Humane’ farms at times are anything but” (2017)

Press Coverage and Expert Features

- *Ohio State News*: “Buckeye Day of Dialogue helps expand civil discourse at Ohio State” (2026)
- *The Lantern*: “Ohio State to host first Buckeye Day of Dialogue Wednesday”, quoted and credited as event creator (2026)
- *The Newark Advocate*: “Aces of Trades: Ohio State director finds harmony in violin, ethics”, profile (2026)
- *The Badger Herald*: “Aaron Yarmel shares tools for navigating ‘Dialogue Across Divides’” (2025)
- *The Columbus Dispatch*: front page feature on Ohio State’s dialogue initiative, interviewed with Kathryn Joyce (November 2024)
- *Ohio State News*: “Ohio State hosts Big Table discussions promoting civil discourse”, featured facilitator (2024)
- *The Chronicle of Higher Education*: “Can Colleges Foster Civil Discourse?”, quoted expert (2024)
- *The Lantern*: “University Launches New Listen. Learn. Discuss. Initiative to Promote

- Civil Discourse on Campus”, interviewed (2024)
- *The Lantern*: “A Facet of Well-Being That Can’t Be Forgotten: CEHV Dialogue Facilitation Program Helps Students Navigate Interpersonal Disagreements”, quoted (2024)
- *UW-Madison News*: “Student group promotes usefulness of philosophy in the community,” feature profile as founder of Madison Public Philosophy (2017)
- *The Badger Herald*: “Student-run volunteer organization hopes to enrich lives in Madison community with philosophy” (2017)

Broadcast, Video, and Podcast Appearances

- *All Sides with Amy Juravich*, WOSU Public Media: “What are the best ways to handle difficult conversations?” (2026)
- *Center for Ethics and Education Podcast*: “Philosophy With (and for) Children (K–12)” (2026)
- IAPC Book Talks: video interview with Jane Gatley on *Why Teach Philosophy in Schools?* (2024)
- *Ethical Perspectives on the News*, KCRG-TV9 (ABC, Cedar Rapids), presented by the Inter-Religious Council of Linn County: panelist (2023)
- Society for the History of Children and Youth, Featured Books series: interviewer of Maughn Rollins Gregory and Megan Jane Lavery on *Gareth B. Matthews, The Child’s Philosopher* (2022)

OTHER PROJECTS

I am a professional violinist: I have performed with orchestras including the Madison Symphony Orchestra and the Louisiana Philharmonic, toured with the Irish Tenors, and currently perform in Duo 161, a classical chamber duo, and Liminal Aberration, a jazz fusion duo. I design and build guitar pedals, and taught a pedal-building workshop for Ohio State undergraduates; I also restore vintage audio equipment for a dedicated listening room, and work in photography. And, purely as a hobby, I run marathons.

REFERENCES

Harry Brighouse (dissertation chair)

Mildred Fish Harnack Professor of Philosophy and Carol Dickson Bascom Professor of the Humanities

University of Wisconsin-Madison

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Winston C. Thompson

Professor, Department of Educational Studies; Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, College of Education and Human Ecology; Director, Center for Ethics and Human Values

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Piers Norris Turner

Associate Professor of Philosophy; University Initiatives Coordinator, Center for Ethics and Human Values

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Maughn Rollins Gregory

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