

J. Joseph Porter

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Employment

University of Colorado Boulder

Boulder, CO

Bruce D. Benson Center for the Study of Western Civilization

Associate Teaching Professor

August 2024-present

Director of Undergraduate Studies

October 2024-present

DePauw University

Greencastle, IN

Janet Prindle Institute for Ethics

Nancy Schaenen Endowed Visiting Scholar of Ethics

August 2022-June 2024

Assistant Director of Academic Services

Department of Philosophy

Visiting Assistant Professor

August 2022-June 2024

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

Research and Teaching Interests

Areas of Specialization

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

Areas of Competence

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

Languages

Reading Proficiency

- *Ancient*: Greek, Latin, Hebrew
- *Modern*: German, French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese

Publications

- ["Existential Risk and Equal Political Liberty"](#) (with Adam Gibbons)
Asian Journal of Philosophy (2024)
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Works in Progress

- "Power Laundering" (draft available upon request)
 - "Public Choice and Elite Theory: Friends or Foes?" (with Alfredo Watkins)
 - "Is Democracy the Most Stable Political System?" (draft available upon request)
 - "The Irresponsible Coercion Argument against Democracy" (draft available upon request)
 - "The Diminished Recognition Respect Argument against Democracy"
 - "Rawls' Argument from Self-respect" (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)
 - "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

- "Against (Most) Instrumental Arguments for Democracy" May 2025
(WIP Workshop in Moral and Political Philosophy, Orange, CA)
- "The Duty to Avoid Preventable Bad Health" March 2025
(North Carolina Philosophical Society Meeting, Winston-Salem, NC)
- "The Irresponsible Coercion Argument against Democracy" May 2024
(WIP Workshop in Moral and Political Philosophy, Crawfordsville, IN)
- "Public Choice and Elite Theory: Friends or Foes?" February 2024
(APPE International Conference, Cincinnati, OH)
- "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)
- "Power Laundering" April 2023
(BGSU Workshop in Applied Ethics and Public Policy, Bowling Green, OH)
- "The Loss of Recognition Respect Argument against Democracy" February 2023
(APA Central Division Meeting, Denver, CO)
- "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)
- "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)

Selected Comments

- Comments on Andrew Bailey, Bradley Rettler, and Craig Warmke's *Resistance Money* November 2024
(PPE Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA)
 - Comments on Aaron Yarmel and Jonathan Lang's "The Ethics of Customizable AI-generated Pornography" April 2024
(Midwest Ethics Symposium, Greencastle, IN)
 - Comments on Eric Sampson and Rebecca Tuvel's "In Defense of 'Harmful' and 'Dangerous Inquiry in Philosophy'" December 2023
(Indiana Philosophical Association Meeting, Greencastle, IN)
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Teaching

University of Colorado Boulder

Boulder, CO

Instructor of Record

- PHIL 1010. Introduction to Western Philosophy: Ancient Fall 2025
- PHIL 1160. Introduction to Medical Ethics Fall 2025
- PHIL 1100. Ethics Spring 2025
- PHIL 2200. Major Social and Political Theories Fall 2024

Co-instructor

- CWCV 2010. Topics in Western Civilization Spring 2025
- CWCV 2010. Topics in Western Civilization Fall 2024

DePauw University

Greencastle, IN

Instructor of Record

- HONR 102C. Utopias and Dystopias (first-year Honor Scholar seminar) Spring 2024
- PHIL 470A. Independent Study: Power and the Machiavellian Tradition 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

Public Philosophy and Outreach

- Organizer, "Machines of Loving Grace? AI and the Twenty-first Century" April 2025
- Host, The Free Mind Podcast Spring 2025
- Co-organizer, "American Catholic Republicanism" December 2024
- Co-organizer, "The Birth of Identity Politics in Spiritual Anxiety" December 2024
- Organizer and moderator, "'Only When It's Funny': Free Speech and the Arts" October 2024
- Facilitator, High School Educator Retreat June 2024
- Organizer, "Risky Giving: Navigating Uncertainty When Trying to Do Good" March 2024
- Organizer, "The Ethics of Controversial Academic Inquiry" February 2024
- Panelist, "The Ethics of Voting" February 2024
- Judge, Central Division High School Ethics Bowl February 2024
- Organizer and moderator, "The Ethics of Capitalism" February 2024
- Judge, Indiana High School Ethics Bowl February 2024
- Ethics workshop leader Fall 2023
- Counselor, Express C.A.M.P. July 2023
- Participant, High School Educator Retreat June 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
- Participant, Fireside Chats at Asbury Towers October 2022
- 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

Selected Honors and Awards

- Summer Graduate Research Fellowship (Institute for Humane Studies) May 2022
 - Humane Studies Fellowship (Institute for Humane Studies) January 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
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Service to the Profession

- Referee and chair, PPE Society Annual Meeting November 2025
 - Referee and chair, PPE Society Annual Meeting November 2024
 - Participant, WIP Workshop in Moral and Political Philosophy May 2024
 - Co-organizer and referee, Midwest Ethics Symposium April 2024
 - Organizer and participant, Foothills Political Workshop March 2024
 - Referee, *The Philosophical Forum* Spring 2024
 - 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

University of Colorado Boulder

Boulder, CO

- Director, Benson Undergraduate Fellowship October 2024-present
- Member, VSCTP search committee Fall 2024-Spring 2025
- Host, undergraduate trivia night Fall 2024-present
- Developer, Western Civilization certificate Fall 2024-present
- Co-developer, PPE minor Fall 2024-present

DePauw University

Greencastle, IN

- Guest lecturer, Animal Ethics March 2024
- Reviewer, Honor Scholar applications Fall 2023-Spring 2024
- 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-Spring 2024
- Referee, Prindle Institute ethics reading courses Fall 2022-Spring 2024
- Member, Prindle Institute Faculty Advisory Committee Fall 2022-Spring 2024

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

- Member, PPE Hiring Committee
- Member, PPE Graduate Advising Committee
- Affiliated graduate student, PPE Program
- Member, PPE Hiring Committee

Chapel Hill, NC

Fall 2021-Spring 2022
Fall 2020-Spring 2022
Fall 2019-Spring 2022
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

References

Jeffrey Dunn

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

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Luc Bovens

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Geoffrey Sayre-McCord

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Gerald J. Postema

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