

# J. Joseph Porter

UNC Department of Philosophy, Caldwell Hall 210D, Chapel Hill, NC 27516  
[josephporter.com](http://josephporter.com) | [jjporter@live.unc.edu](mailto:jjporter@live.unc.edu) | 617.863.0412

---

## Education

### University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Ph.D., Philosophy

Dissertation: "Democracy and the Problem of Fundamental Security"

Committee: Luc Bovens (chair), Gerald J. Postema, Tom Dougherty

M.A., Philosophy

Thesis: "The Inclusivist Anomaly Is Not an Anomaly:

A Reply to Buchanan and Powell"

Committee: Gerald J. Postema (chair), Luc Bovens, Geoffrey Sayre-McCord

*Chapel Hill, NC*  
Expected May 2022

May 2018

### Harvard University

M.T.S., New Testament and Early Christianity

A.B., Philosophy (High Honors), *magna cum laude*

Minor in the Comparative Study of Religion

Thesis: "Free Will and Experience"

Adviser: T.M. Scanlon

*Cambridge, MA*  
May 2016  
May 2012

---

## Research Interests

### Areas of Specialization

- PPE (philosophy, politics, and economics)
- Political philosophy
- Ethics (especially animal ethics)

### Areas of Competence

- Ancient philosophy
- History of philosophy
- Philosophy of religion

---

## Honors and Awards

- Adam Smith Fellowship (Mercatus Center) August 2021
- Don Lavoie Fellowship (Mercatus Center) January 2021
- Humane Studies Fellowship (Institute for Humane Studies) June 2020
- Hayek Fund for Scholars (Institute for Humane Studies) March 2020
- Adam Smith Fellowship (Mercatus Center) September 2019
- Humane Studies Fellowship (Institute for Humane Studies) 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 by Harvard University) July 2012
- Phi Beta Kappa (Harvard University) May 2012

## Languages

### Reading Proficiency

- Greek, Latin, Hebrew, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese
- 

## Selected Presentations

- “Existential Risk and Equal Political Liberty”  
(PPE Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA) February 2022
  - “Existential Risk and Equal Political Liberty”  
(After Rawls: John Rawls’ Legacy in the 21st Century, Bucharest, Romania) November 2021
  - “Existential Risk and Equal Political Liberty”  
(International Symposium on Rawls, Girona, Spain) October 2021
  - “Health and the Ethics of Eating Meat”  
(SCSP Annual Meeting) April 2021
  - “Meat Me Halfway? Ethics and the Health of Animal-based Diets”  
(PPE Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA) March 2020
  - “Explaining Normative Drift”  
(PPE Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA) March 2019
- 

## Teaching

### University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

*Chapel Hill, NC*

#### *Instructor of Record*

- 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

## Service to the University

### University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| ● Member, PPE Graduate Advising Committee  | Chapel Hill, NC<br>Fall 2020-present |
| ● Affiliated graduate student, PPE Program   | Fall 2019-present                    |
| ● Organizer and co-host, PPE Salon: "Bitcoin: What Does the Future Hold?"  | March 2021                           |
| ● Organizer and co-host, PPE Salon: "What Can We Learn from 'GameStopGate'?"   | February 2021                        |
| ● Organizer and host, "Beyond Policy: Human Perspectives on the Opioid Crisis" (a PPE Program/Carolina Public Humanities collaborative workshop) | February 2020                        |
| ● Member, PPE Hiring Committee   | Fall 2019                            |
| ● Leader, PPE Reading Group: <i>Love Your Enemies</i>  | Fall 2019                            |
| ● Judge, National High School Ethics Bowl  | April 2019                           |
- 

## Service to the Profession

- |   |               |
|---|---------------|
| ● Co-organizer and referee, PPE Society Annual Meeting  | February 2022 |
| ● Co-organizer and referee, PPE Society Annual Meeting  | March 2020    |
| ● Chair, "Corrective Justice, Distributive Justice, and Compensation," PPE Society Annual Meeting         | March 2019    |
| ● Chair, "Proxies and Politics: Making Social Choices in the Age of Big Data," PPE Society Annual Meeting | March 2019    |
- 

## 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

### **Luc Bovens**

Professor, UNC Department of Philosophy

Core Faculty Member, UNC Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Program

[lbovens@unc.edu](mailto:lbovens@unc.edu)

### **Geoffrey Sayre-McCord**

Morehead-Cain Alumni Distinguished Professor, UNC Department of Philosophy

Director, UNC Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Program

[sayre-mccord@unc.edu](mailto:sayre-mccord@unc.edu)

### **Gerald J. Postema**

Professor Emeritus, UNC Department of Philosophy

[gpostema@email.unc.edu](mailto:gpostema@email.unc.edu)