

# Erik Hoversten

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I think that the abstract and the practical are mutually reinforcing. I love conceptual exploration, and my educational background is in philosophy and the development of formal systems. But I also love getting my hands dirty. I have a strong concern for the continued existence of human life on our planet, and I've become convinced that advancement in waste management, primarily through the promotion of municipal composting, can be a crucial component in keeping us below 2°C.

## EXPERIENCE

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### COMPOST

Operations Coordinator, NYC Compost Project Hosted by Big Reuse (February 2017 — Present)

Develop and implement an operations plan for compost processing and help to launch operations at our Salt Lot Compost Site; supervise all operations at the Salt Lot Compost Site, principally the processing of 12,000 pounds of organic material per week; research, purchase, and maintain equipment needed for the composting process; liaise with partner organizations about shared use of space and on-site event hosting; develop and maintain protocol for quality control, safety, and record keeping

Organics Recovery Coordinator, NYC Compost Project Hosted by Big Reuse (January 2016 — January 2017)

Staff food scrap drop-offs, where NYC residents can bring their food scraps for composting; assist with processing of food scraps at the compost site; develop and create informational materials for internal use and public education; develop and distribute digital content, such as monthly email newsletters and blog posts

Field Assistant, NYC Compost Project Hosted by Big Reuse (May 2015 — December 2015)

Staff food scrap drop-offs; assist with compost processing; coordinate volunteers at street tree-care events

### SYSTEMS

Systems Developer, Big Reuse (June 2015 — Present)

Uncover inefficiencies and develop improvements in automated operational systems, such as donation and sales tracking; implement and maintain system tools that are responsive to staff needs and capabilities; verify and maintain data integrity; troubleshoot technical issues and maintain correspondence with staff and the public regarding solutions; serve as a public voice of the organization via online publications

### PHILOSOPHY

Part-time Lecturer, Montclair State University (September 2015 — December 2015)

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Rutgers University (September 2011 — May 2015)

Design course structure; develop lecture materials; plan, write, and grade assignments and exams; hold office hours and maintain relationships with students

## EDUCATION

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MA in Philosophy, Rutgers University (May 2018)

[Discourse as Collaborative Inquiry](#), Rutgers University (May 2018)

I contend that conversation commonly realizes a collaborative inquiry, which is to say that successful contribution to the discourse requires the efforts of multiple parties working in concert, not just serially. It is the goal of this project to explain, motivate, and provide a model of implementation for this idea, what I call collaborative discourse dynamics.

MA in Philosophy, University of Wyoming (May 2008)

[Disagreement in Context](#), University of Wyoming (May 2008)

I examine the evidence for semantic relativism provided by discourses involving disagreement over matters of taste. Intuitively, these discourses involve faultless disagreement; despite having a point of genuine conflict between them, neither party is incorrect in their assertion. I pull out a number of criteria that an adequate proposal for the semantics of predicates of personal taste must meet. While relativism offers one adequate proposal, I argue that a contextualist proposal can also adequately account for our intuitions. The key insight is that disagreement can be carried by pragmatic features of utterances, even if there is no semantic conflict.

BA in Philosophy, University of Wyoming (December 2005)

## QUALIFICATIONS

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Skid Steer Operator Training, Total Equipment Training (March 2017)

A comprehensive skid steer operator program consisting of classroom and practical hands on training and evaluation. Includes both a written and practical evaluation of competency to satisfy OSHA training requirements.

Compost Operations Training Course, US Composting Council (September 2016)

A 40-hour course taught by leading composting professionals and educators focusing on the knowledge and skills needed to run a successful composting facility. Includes lectures, hands-on activities, and field trips.

Master Composter Course, NYC Compost Project Hosted by Brooklyn Botanic Garden (2016)

An advanced composting course that trains a select group of New Yorkers to support, develop, and maintain community-based composting projects. Requires 24 hours of classroom instruction, two field trips, and 30 hours of compost-related fieldwork.

Graduate Certificate in Cognitive Science, Rutgers University Center for Cognitive Science (May 2018)

Recognition for interdisciplinary scholarship concerned with understanding the nature and development of intelligent capacities. Requires 12 credits for qualifying courses from outside the student's home department.

Outstanding Masters Thesis Award, University of Wyoming School of Arts & Sciences (May 2008)

Recognition for contribution to the master's enterprise of the university. Master's theses in the areas of the physical and life sciences, the social sciences, and humanities and fine arts are considered. Five students were awarded in 2008.

## PROJECTS

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### COMPOST

[Composting Operations Plan](#), NYC Compost Project Hosted by Big Reuse (December 2017)

Creation of an operations plan for composting at the Salt Lot Compost Site operated by the NYC Compost Project Hosted by Big Reuse. The plan includes detail on feedstock procurement, pile build specifics, monitoring and quality control, and equipment maintenance.

**Tools:** Google docs and sheets; javascript

[Compost Data Tracking System](#), NYC Compost Project Hosted by Big Reuse (Major redesign December 2017)

Data tracking tools for compost site management. The tracking project required devising a means to bring in data from the field and manipulating the data into a human-readable form for easy analysis.

**Tools:** Google forms and sheets

[Mountain Compost](#), Erik Hoversten (October 2016)

A set of tools related to community-scale composting geared specifically to mountain environments. The website includes a set of data visualization tools (compost calculator, temperature tracking, and odor analysis), research resources list, and a draft proposal for a implementing a mid-scale composting organization.

**Tools:** Jekyll templating engine; javascript; html; css

### SYSTEMS

[Big Reuse Website](#), Big Reuse (Launched October 2016)

Management of an overhaul of the public website for Big Reuse, including the design of a mobile-responsive website with a company overview splash page, departmental information pages, staff directory, jobs list, blog page, and social media integrations. The design work included sourcing images, developing design elements collaboratively with staff and managers, and composing content.

**Tools:** Wordpress; html; css; javascript; php

[Donations Pipeline](#), Big Reuse (Phase 1 launched December 2016, Phase 2 launched January 2017)

Development of an automation pipeline to improve the efficiency of materials donations from the customer inquiry phase through adding donated items to inventory. This involved communicating with donations staff regarding their needs, devising an easy-to-use means of acquiring donor information, and translating the data received into formats usable for a variety of web applications. The result is that donors can quickly get a record of their donation for tax purposes and Big Reuse can track the kinds of donations they receive, improve communication with donors, and expand the opportunity for repeat donations.

**Tools:** Jotform form building app; Zapier integration platform; javascript

[Ecommerce and POS Platform](#), Big Reuse (Launched July 2017)

Development of a point of sale system for Big Reuse incorporated with an ecommerce platform. Building the point of sale system involved developing a category structure for store inventory and training staff on the proper procedures for adding new inventory and making sales. The ecommerce platform involved integrating the in-store and online sales channels, duplicating in-store promotions in the ecommerce platform, and designing the user interface for the online store.

**Tools:** Lightspeed Retail and Ecommerce POS; html; twig php templating; javascript

[Email Newsletter Program](#), Big Reuse (June 2015 to November 2017)

Development and implementation of an email newsletter program for Big Reuse. The project required generating weekly newsletters and growing the company contact list. Additional work involved development of a tool for generating product blocks for easy incorporation into emails and training staff to take over the newsletter generation task.

**Tools:** MailChimp and Constant Contact marketing platforms; Zapier integration platform; Lightspeed ecommerce API; html; php

### PHILOSOPHY

[Discourse as Collaborative Inquiry](#), Rutgers University (May 2018)

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## TEACHING

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Introduction to Philosophy, Montclair State University (Fall 2015) [[Course Materials](#)]

Introduction to Logic, Rutgers University (Spring 2015) [[Course Materials](#)]

Logic, Reason, and Persuasion, Rutgers University (Fall 2014) [[Syllabus](#); [Lectures](#)]

Introduction to Ethics, Rutgers University (Spring 2014) [[Syllabus](#); [Assessment](#); [Course Materials](#)]

Current Moral and Social Issues, Rutgers University (Fall 2013) [[Syllabus](#); [Assessment](#)]

Introduction to Philosophy, Rutgers University (Fall 2011, Spring 2012) [[Syllabus](#); [Assessment](#)]