Erik Hoversten

ehovers10@gmail.com
erikhoversten.org
307-461-1517

I love conceptual exploration: my educational background is in philosophy and the development of formal systems. But I also love getting my hands dirty, and I'm inspired by exploring nature. I believe strongly that environmental conservation is crucial to sustainable development. Human ingenuity is expansive, but we must acknowledge its limitations and be humble enough to learn from natural systems.

EXPERIENCE

COMPOST

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

- Launching compost operations at the Salt Lot Compost Site by developing an operations plan, coordinating with regulatory bodies, and liasing with contractors and partner organizations regarding equipment and use of space
- Supervising all operations at the Salt Lot Compost Site, processing 12,000 pounds of organic material weekly
- Researching, purchasing, and maintaining tools and equipment needed for the composting process, including heavy machinery such as skid steer loaders and compost screeners
- Developing and maintaining protocol for quality control, safety, and record keeping at mid-scale composting sites
- Serving as a public voice of the organization by developing educational signage and leading tours

Organics Recovery Coordinator/Field Assistant, NYC Compost Project Hosted by Big Reuse (May 2015 — January 2017)

- Providing Queens and Brooklyn residents with information and resources on urban composting and facilitating the diversion of food scrap waste at drop-off sites
- Processing organic waste to create compost at two mid-scale composting sites
- Operating machinery needed for collection and processing of material, including box trucks, skid steer loaders, tub mixers, chippers, and other small-engine machines
- Coordinating volunteers events to clean tree pits, prune trees, and use finished compost to improve the soil
- Maintaining records and preparing reports for regulatory and funding bodies for food scrap collection and compost quality
- Serving as a public voice of the organization by developing email newsletters, blog posts, and educational outreach materials to improve public understanding of urban composting

SYSTEMS

Systems Developer, Big Reuse (June 2015 — Present)

- Uncovering inefficiencies and developing improvements in operational systems, such as donation and sales tracking
- Unlocking new means of tracking and integrating data across digital channels by researching and experimenting with tools for database manipulation, document and image creation and conversion, infographic development, customer relationship management, ecommerce, form creation, search engine optimization, and website development
- Verifying and maintaining data integrity and troubleshooting technical issues with staff and the public
- Developing content for online publications and correspondence and serving as a public voice of the organization

PHILOSOPHY

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

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

- Complete design and administration of undergraduate philosophy courses ranging from 25 to 100 students
- Preparing and delivering three hours of lecture materials per week
- Designing and assessing exercises, papers, and exams
- Creating an atmosphere of free flow of ideas where students feel comfortable to explore speak openly while also taking in the ideas of their fellow students and those presented in readings and lectures
- Serving as an advisor to students outside of class by giving extra course-related support, helping them navigate the university adminstrative weeds, and writing recommendations

Courses Taught

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]

REFERENCES

Justin Green
Founder and Executive Director
Big Reuse and Big Initiatives
justin@bigreuse.org
718-777-2065

Leah Retherford
Project Manager
NYC Compost Project Hosted by Big Reuse
leah@bigreuse.org
718-535-3365

Susanna Goodin
Associate Professor
University of Wyoming Department of Philosophy
goodin@uwyo.edu
307-766-3368

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATION

PHILOSOPHY

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.

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

MA in Philosophy, University of Wyoming (May 2008)

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

I examine the evidence for semantic relativism from discourses involving disagreement over matters of taste. Intuitively, despite having a point of genuine conflict between them, neither party to the disagreement is incorrect in their assertion. I pull out criteria that an adequate proposal for the semantics of predicates of personal taste must meet. While relativism is an adequate proposal, I argue that a contextualist proposal can also 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.

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

BA in Philosophy, magna cum laude, University of Wyoming (December 2005)

COMPOST

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

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

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

PROJECTS

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, tempurature 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