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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 believe strongly that advancement in waste management, particularly developing strategies for implementing widescale municipal composting practices, is a vital component of a portfolio for sustainable cities. Bringing these strategies to fruition will require both creative conceptual development and elbow grease.

## 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

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

## COMPOST EXPERIENCE

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

- Launching compost operations at the Salt Lot Compost Site in Brooklyn by developing an operations plan, coordinating permitting and licensing with regulatory bodies, and liaising with contractors and partner organizations regarding site equipment and use of space
- Supervising all operations at the Salt Lot Compost Site, principally the processing of 12,000 pounds of organic material per week
- 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 at the Salt Lot Compost Site

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

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

- Providing New Yorkers with information and resources on urban composting and facilitating the diversion of food scrap waste at drop-off sites throughout Queens and Brooklyn
- 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 at street tree-care events, cleaning tree pits, pruning trees, and using finished compost to improve the soil
- Maintaining records and preparing reports to present to regulatory and funding bodies for food scrap collection, community interaction, and compost quality
- Developing educational outreach materials to improve public understanding of urban composting
- Serving as a public voice of the organization by developing and distributing email newsletters, blog posts, and outreach materials

### 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.

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## SYSTEMS EXPERIENCE

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### **Systems Developer**, Big Reuse (June 2015 — Present)

- › Uncovering inefficiencies and developing improvements in automated 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

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## PHILOSOPHY EXPERIENCE

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### **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 administrative weeds, and writing recommendations

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## 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