VAUGHN BRYAN BALTZLY

Department of Philosophy
Texas State University
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RESEARCH AREAS

Areas of specialization: Applied Ethics; Political Philosophy; "PPE" (Politics, Philosophy, and Economics)

Areas of competence: Normative Ethics, Public Policy

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Philosophy; University of Maryland — 2009
Dissertation: *Diversity, Modesty, Liberty: An Essay on State Neutrality*
Supervisor: William Galston
Specialization: Committee on Politics, Philosophy, and Public Policy

Master's in Public Policy; University of Maryland — 2008
International Development Track
Advisor: Carol Graham

M.A., Philosophy; Virginia Tech — 2001
Thesis: "Contractarianism and 'Moderate Morality'"
Supervisor: William Fitzpatrick

B.A., Philosophy and English; Hillsdale College — 1999

EMPLOYMENT

Texas State University — since 2016
Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy (2023 -)
Assistant Professor (2016 – 2023)

University of Maryland – Baltimore County — 2014-2016
Instructor, Department of Philosophy

University of Maryland – College Park — 2011-2015
Adjunct Faculty, School of Public Policy

United States Government Accountability Office (GAO) — 2013-2016
Senior Analyst (2015 – 2016)
Analyst (2013 – 2015)

- Duties: Conducted performance audits that evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of various U.S. federal agencies and programs, with a focus on housing policy.
- Accomplishments: Contributed to the design, research, and composition of reports on the Export-Import Bank, the Department of Energy, the Small Business Administration's Office of Disaster Assistance, the low-income housing tax credit program, and the IRS Automated Collection System, among others.

United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) 2010-2013
Management Analyst

- Duties: Assisted in the formulation and promulgation of Departmental policies related to capital planning and real property management; managed a portfolio of the Department's enhanced-use lease (EUL) projects.
- Accomplishments: Helped oversee the development of supportive housing facilities for homeless veterans in Minneapolis, MN; St. Cloud, MN; Walla Walla, WA; and Menlo Park, CA. Served as EUL program team lead, for professional staff of 10, from October 2012 through July 2013.

Bowling Green State University 2008-2009
Visiting Instructor, Department of Philosophy

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Academic Publications

BOOK

PPE+: On Ethics, Economics, Psychology, and Politics (or: Restoring the 'Moral Sciences')
Completed book manuscript currently under review with Broadview Press; expected publication in 2026

JOURNAL ARTICLES and BOOK CHAPTERS

[*N.B.: Years in [brackets] below correspond to the date the piece was first made publicly available. For book chapters, this will be the book's publication date (even when that differs from the date on the book's copyright page); for journal articles, this will be the date of first appearance on the journal's website (even when that date differs from that of the print issue/volume in which the article eventually appears).*]

[2024] "Two (Lay) Dogmas on Externalities." *Public Choice*. Part of a special themed issue on "Public Choice and the Governance of Complex Externalities." https://doi.org/10.1007/s11127-024-01167-z (Published online April 2024)

[2022] "Pigs in Paradise: Happy Local People Raising (Happy Local) Pigs?" With Colleen C. Myles. *East Asian Journal of Philosophy* 1(2): 23-39 (special issue on "local food"). https://eajp.online/ref-159364 (Published online January 2022)

[2021] "Enacting Interdisciplinarity: Lessons from Crafting a Multi-dimensional, Experiential Field Study." With Colleen C. Myles. *The Geography Teacher* 18:3-4 (Sep. 2021), 101-106. (Published in a special issue on the theme of "Interdisciplinarity in Geography Educational Experiences Abroad.") https://doi.org/10.1080/19338341.2021.1939099 (Published online September 2021)

[2021] "Trolleyology as First Philosophy: A Puzzle-Centered Approach to Introducing the Discipline." *Teaching Philosophy* 44:4 (Dec. 2021), 407-48. https://doi.org/10.5840/teachphil202141143 (Published online May 2021.)
** *Awarded the American Association of Philosophy Teachers' "Lenssen Prize" for 2022.* **

[2020] "Concerning Publicized Goods (or: The Promiscuity of the Public Goods Argument)." *Economics and Philosophy* 37:3 (Nov. 2021), 376-94. https://doi.org/10.1017/S0266267120000395 (Published online December 2020.)

[2020] "The Interpersonal Variability of Gustatory Sensation and the Prospects for an Alimentary Aesthetics." *intervalla: platform for intellectual exchange*, volume 7 (themed issue dedicated to "Questions of Taste"). (Published December 2020)

[2020] "The Spandrels of San Marcos? On the Very Notion of 'Landscape Ferment' as a Research Paradigm." In *Fermented Landscapes: Lively Processes of Socio-environmental Transformation*, edited by Colleen C. Myles. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press (April 2020).

[2020] "Booze as a Public Good? Considering How Localized, Craft Fermentation Industries Make Place for Better or Worse." With Colleen C. Myles, Chris Holtkamp, Innisfree McKinnon, and Colton Coiner. In *Fermented Landscapes: Lively Processes of Socio-environmental Transformation*, edited by Colleen C. Myles. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press (April 2020).

[2019] "A Conservative Position on the 'Bathroom Battles'" and "Reply to Loren Cannon." In *Ethics, Left and Right: The Moral Issues That Divide Us*, edited by Bob Fischer. New York: Oxford University Press (December 2019).

[2014] "Four Strikes for Pluralist Liberalism (and Two Cheers for Classical Liberalism)." *Journal of Value Inquiry* 48(3) (September 2014)

[2014] "Two Models of Disestablished Marriage." *Public Affairs Quarterly* 28(1) (January 2014)

[2012] "Same-sex Marriage, Polygamy, and Disestablishment." *Social Theory and Practice* 38(2) (April 2012)

"Public Philosophy"

I write occasional pieces of commentary for *Discourse* magazine, a publication of the Mercatus Center at George Mason University. These articles are collected together at https://www.discoursemagazine.com/author/vaughn-b-baltzly/. Pieces published to-date include:

- "Conservative Liberalism." (August 2020)
- "What Will Be the Next Great Information Filter?" (July 2020)
- "Three Decades, Three Debates" (June 2020)
- "Now More than Ever, We Need Steel-manning." (May 2020)
- "An Easy Way to Help During the COVID-19 Pandemic." (March 2020)

Work that Colleen Myles and I have done together was featured on the January 2, 2022 edition of "The Versatilist" podcast.

Government Reports

I contributed to the design, research, and composition of the following GAO reports:

- *Elderly Housing: HUD Should Do More to Oversee Efforts to Link Residents to Services* (GAO-16-758)
- *Low-Income Housing Tax Credit: Some Agency Practices Raise Concerns and IRS Could Improve Noncompliance Reporting and Data Collection* (GAO-16-360)
- *IRS Case Selection: Automated Collection System Lacks Key Internal Controls Needed to Ensure the Program Fulfills Its Mission* (GAO-15-744)
- *Low-income Housing Tax Credit: Joint IRS-HUD Administration Could Help Address Weaknesses in Oversight* (GAO-15-330)
- *Improper Payments: Department of Energy's Risk Assessments Should be Strengthened* (GAO-15-36)
- *Small Business Administration: Additional Steps Needed to Help Ensure More Timely Disaster Assistance* (GAO-14-760, and related Congressional testimony: GAO-15-727T)
- *U.S. Export-Import Bank: Actions Needed to Promote Competitiveness and International Cooperation* (GAO-12-294)
- *Improved Reporting and Member States' Consensus Needed for U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization's Reform Plan* (GAO-11-922)

AWARDS

American Association of Philosophy Teachers' "Lenssen Prize" 2022

- Recognizes the best essay on teaching and learning in the field of philosophy published in the previous two years.
- Awarded for "Trolleyology as First Philosophy"

American Philosophical Association's Rockefeller Prize 2014

- Bi-annual prize for best unpublished article-length work in philosophy by a non-academically affiliated philosopher
- Awarded for "Four Strikes for Pluralist Liberalism (and Two Cheers for Classical Liberalism)"

Presidential Management Fellow, U.S. Federal Government 2009-2012

- Two-year Fellowship program affording special developmental, rotational, and training opportunities within the federal government
- (2009 cohort; employment appointment began 2010)

Institute for Humane Studies Dissertation Research Fellowship 2007-2008

"Academic Advisor of the Year – Graduate Assistant" Award: 2006
Office of Undergraduate Studies, University of Maryland

TEACHING

Texas State University 2016-

PHIL 7323 "Environmental Ethics" (doctoral level): Spring 2021
PHIL 5332 "Social & Political Philosophy" (master's): Fall 2025

PHIL 5328 "Seminar in Ethics: History of the Social Contract Tradition" Spring 2024
PHIL 5328 "Seminar in Ethics: Obligations to Future Generations": Fall 2019
PHIL 5323 "Environmental Ethics" (master's): Summer 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021, Spring 2021, Fall 2020
PHIL 5320 "History of Ethics" (master's): Fall 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022
PHIL 4388/5329 "Food Ethics": Summer 2024
HONR 3398V "Politics, Philosophy, and Economics": Fall 2018
PHIL 3332 "Social and Political Philosophy": Spring 2019, Fall 2017
PHIL 3323 "Environmental Ethics": Summer 2023
PHIL 1320 "Ethics and Society" (Honors): Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2024, Fall 2023 (x2), Spring 2023, Fall 2022, Spring 2022, Fall 2021, Spring 2021, Spring 2020 (x2), Spring 2018 (x2)
PHIL 1305 "Intro to Philosophy": Fall '20 (Honors), Fall '19 (Honors), Spring '19 (Honors), Fall '18 (Honors), Fall '17 (Honors), Spring '17 (x2), Fall '16 (x2)

University of Maryland – Baltimore County 2014-2016
PHIL 355 "Political Philosophy" (Spring 2016)
PHIL 100 "Introduction to Philosophy" (Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Fall 2015)

University of Maryland, School of Public Policy 2011-2015
PUAF 699O "21st-Century Policy Challenges" (Spring 2015)
PUAF 798 "Readings in Public Policy – Just War Theory" (Spring 2012)
PUAF 798 "Readings in Public Policy – Moral Dimensions" (Fall 2011, Fall 2013, Summer 2014, Fall 2014)
PUAF 650 "Moral Dimensions of Public Policy" (Fall 2011)

Bowling Green State University 2008-2009
PHIL 101 "Introduction to Philosophy" (x3)
PHIL 125 "Contemporary Moral Issues"
PHIL 227 "Philosophy of Punishment"
PHIL 622 "History of Political Philosophy" (doctoral level)

University of Maryland, Department of Philosophy 2002-2008
Instructor
PHIL 100 "Introduction to Philosophy" (x2)
PHIL 140 "Contemporary Moral Issues" (x2)
UNIV 100 "The Student in the University" (x6)
Teaching Assistant
PHIL 100 "Introduction to Philosophy"
PHIL 140 "Contemporary Moral Issues" (x2)
PHIL 170 "Introduction to Logic"
PHIL 245 "Social and Political Philosophy"

St. Mary's College of Maryland 2003
Instructor
PHIL 304 *Seminar in Values Inquiry* – "World Poverty and Moral Obligation" (x2)

Virginia Tech 1999-2001
Teaching Assistant
PHIL 1304 "Morality and Justice" (x2)

PHIL 1204 "Knowledge and Reality"
PHIL 1504 "Language and Logic"

RELATED EXPERIENCE

Research Associate 2010-2016
Department of Philosophy, University of Maryland

Academic Advisor 2004-2007
Division of Letters and Sciences, University of Maryland

- Advised caseload of 150 undeclared freshman and sophomore undergraduate students
- Co-director of "Contemporary Moral Issues" Learning Community, 2004-05

Research Assistant 2001-2002
Institute for Philosophy and Public Policy, University of Maryland

- Facilitated two-semester "Committee on Politics, Philosophy, and Public Policy" ("CP4") proseminar and bi-weekly workshop series
- Supplied research support to Institute fellows
- Maintained CP4 website

Tutor 2000-2001
Department of Athletic Advising, Virginia Tech

- Supplied one-on-one tutoring for football players in introductory philosophy courses

PRESENTATIONS

"On Alimentary Exceptionalism"
Presented at the annual meeting of the PPE Society, London, UK.
July 18, 2025

"Transferrable Vaccine Vouchers: Effecting the Optimal Trade-off Between Two Pandemic-Generated Externalities?"
Presented at the annual meeting of the PPE Society, London, UK.
July 18, 2025

Panelist, "New Frontiers in PPE Pedagogy"
Presented at the annual meeting of the PPE Society, London, UK.
July 18, 2025

Panelist, Faculty Roundtable, "Understanding the Recent Election."
Texas State University
November 7, 2024

Panelist: "Lenssen Prize Winners' Panel"
Biennial Conference/Workshop of the American Association of Philosophy Teachers
Westerville, OH
July 27, 2024

"Spectacles, Hearing Aids, and Skepticism About an Alimentary Aesthetic"
The Umbra Institute's Biennial Food Studies Conference, Perugia, Italy
June 15, 2024

Faculty panelist: "On Ecophilosophy"
Presented as part of Texas State University's "Philosophy Dialogues" Series
April 20, 2023

"Against Coextensivism: Getting Clear on the Relationship Between Public Goods and Externalities"
Annual meeting of the Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) Society, New Orleans.
November 4, 2022.
Annual meeting of the Public Choice Society, Nashville, TN.
March 12, 2022

Faculty panelist: "Mathematics & Ethics: Algorithms, Fairness, and Social Good"
Presented as part of the Texas State University Math Department's annual "Mathematics & Statistics Awareness Month" series
April 8, 2022

"Privatizing Public(ized) Goods"
Presented at the annual meeting of the PPE Society, New Orleans, LA.
February 5, 2022

"New Work for a Rawlsian 'Exchange Branch': Quadratic Funding as a Means of Public Goods Provision?"
Presented at the annual meeting of the PPE Society, New Orleans, LA.
February 3, 2022

"Public Goods Provision in a Rawlsian 'Exchange Branch': Wicksellian Unanimity and Quadratic Voting."
Presented as the PPE Society's session at the annual meeting of the Pacific Division of the American Philosophical Association (virtual conference)
April 8, 2021.

"Integrating Moral Psychology into the PPE Curriculum: Or, Restoring the 'Moral Sciences.'"
Presented at the annual meeting of the PPE Society, New Orleans, LA.
March 13, 2020

"Huemering the Vegans and the Libertarians."
"Elevator Pitch" at the annual Texas Ethics Workshop, Ft. Worth, TX
February 8, 2020

"The Spandrels of San Marcos? On the Very Notion of 'Landscape Ferment' as a Research Paradigm."
Contribution to a panel discussion on "Fermented Landscapes" at the annual meeting of the American Association of Geographers, Washington DC
April 3, 2019

"Introduction to Public Finance Policy Issues in the US Federal Government"
Taught as part of the "Public Finance" module of the Texas "Certified Public Manager" (CPM) program, Texas State University
August 3, 2018 and January 20, 2017

"Why *Food*, Though?" (with Colleen C. Myles)
Presented at "Exploring Ethics Through Food Choices," the Umbra Institute's Biennial Food & Sustainability Studies Conference, Perugia, Italy
June 8, 2018

"On the (Potential) Ubiquity of Public Goods."
Presented at the annual meeting of the PPE Society, New Orleans, LA.
March 17, 2018

"Arguments, Reasoning, and Validity: A Primer for Consumers of Organizational Communication."
Taught as part of the "Organizational Communication" module of the Texas "Certified Public Manager" (CPM) program, Texas State University
February 23, 2018

Comments on Irene Klaver's "Engaging the Water Monster of Amsterdam: Meandering toward a Fair Urban Riversphere."
Commentary offered at the annual Texas Ethics Workshop, Texas State University.
February 3, 2018

"Disagreement and Democracy: Amelioration, or Accommodation?"
Presented as part of Texas State University's "Philosophy Dialogues" Series
October 16, 2017

Remarks on James Stoner's "The Positive Liberty of Free Speech."
Commentary offered as part of Texas State's Annual "Constitution Day" Lecture.
September 19, 2017

"Understanding (and Dealing With) Program Evaluation: A Survival Manual"
Taught as part of the "Program Evaluation" module of the Texas "Certified Public Manager" (CPM) program, Texas State University
July 28, 2017

"The Ethics of War"
Address to the Texas State University Leadership Institute's Annual Conference
February 18, 2017

Faculty panelist in roundtable discussion of the 2016 film *Starving the Beast*
Presented as part of Texas State University's "Philosophy Dialogues Series"
January 26, 2017

"Interdisciplinarity: A Meditation, with Case Studies"
Texas State University Philosophy Department Colloquium
March 10, 2016

"Combinatorial Explosions and Administrative Complexity: Boring Reasons to Prefer a Basic Income Guarantee (BIG)"
Presented at the Richard L. Hedden 'Little BIG Conference' at New Mexico State University
February 7, 2014

"Two Models of Disestablished Marriage"
Symposium Presentation, American Philosophical Association Eastern Division Meeting
Baltimore, MD
December 29, 2013

"21st-Century Warfare and Just War Theory"
Invited address to UMCP PUAF 699-O, "21st-Century Policy Challenges"
June 18, 2012

"Same-sex Marriage, Polygamy, and (Two Models of) Disestablished Marriage"
University of Maryland, Philosophy Department Research Colloquium
April 21, 2010

"Same-sex Marriage, Polygamy, and Disestablishment"
Bowling Green State University, Philosophy Department Colloquium
October 9, 2009

"Four Strikes for Pluralist Liberalism (and Two Cheers for Classical Liberalism)"
Georgetown University, Philosophy Department Colloquium
January 25, 2008

"Globalization and Inequality Trends"
University of Maryland, Philosophy Department Colloquium
November 30, 2007
Baltimore-Washington Graduate Student Conference (at Georgetown University)
April 29, 2007

"Epistemic Modesty and Liberal Neutrality"
Guest speaker at the Workshop Series of the Committee on Politics, Philosophy, and Public Policy – University of Maryland
May 11, 2007
Institute for Humane Studies Research Colloquium – Alexandria, VA
May 12, 2007

"Can Thinking About Nomological Emergence Help Us to Think About Non-Reductive Physicalism?"
Annual Meeting of the Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology – Raleigh, NC
March 25, 2005

"New Work for a Language Module?"
Princeton/Rutgers Graduate Student Conference, Princeton, NJ
April 4, 2004

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES & SERVICE

- College of Liberal Arts Curriculum Committee, Texas State University, Fall '24 –
- College of Liberal Arts Research Committee, Texas State University, Spring 2024 –
- Faculty Senate, Texas State University
    - Senator: Spring 2024
    - Departmental Liaison: Fall 2021-Spring 2023
- University Leadership Assembly, Texas State University, 2017-23
- Faculty advisor for Texas State University Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl team, 2016-24
- Co-presenter, "Keeping Up with the Congress." With Carrie Crisp and Jennifer Garcia. Presented as an on-going installment in Texas State University's "Philosophy Dialogue Series," September-November 2017.
- Panel member for project course presentations for University of Maryland Department of Government and Politics' capstone course "GVPT356: Innovation and Design for Entrepreneurship and Action (IDEAS) in Peace and Development", Aspen Institute, May 2016
- Judge for annual Washington DC High School Ethics Bowl – 2012, 2013, 2016
- Refereeing:
    - Thomson/Wadsworth Publishers – book manuscript (x2)
    - Thomson/Wadsworth Publishers – book proposal
    - Norton – book manuscript (revised edition)
    - *Social Theory and Practice* (x3)
    - *Journal of Applied Philosophy*
    - *Environmental Ethics*
    - *Journal of Social Philosophy*
    - *Economics & Philosophy*
    - *Teaching Philosophy*
    - *Humanities & Social Sciences Communications*

[Last Updated: August 20, 2025]