

MARIA WAGGONER

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AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Moral Psychology, Ethics, Philosophy of Religion

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Applied Ethics, Epistemology, Philosophy of Mind

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Purdue University	2023-present
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EDUCATION

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA

Visiting Graduate Student, Psychology Department	2021-2023
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Faculty Advisor: Ethan Kross

Visiting Graduate Student, Philosophy Department	2020-2021
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Faculty Advisor: Peter Railton

Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO, USA

Ph.D., Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology	2016-2023
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Faculty Advisor: Allan Hazlett

M.A., Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology	2016-2019
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Northern Illinois University, Dekalb, IL, USA

M.A., Philosophy	2012-2014
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University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN, USA

B.A., Philosophy	2008-2012
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B.S., Exercise Science	2008-2012
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NON-ACADEMIC LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Parental Leave	2022 (Fall)
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Parental Leave	2024 (Fall)
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PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Waggoner, M. and Kelly, D. "Can We Learn to be Virtuous from the Vicious? On Moral Learning and the Pedagogical Value of Antihero Protagonists." In *Evolving Characters*, edited by I. Wiegmann and M. Dale. New York: Routledge, forthcoming

Waggoner, M. "The Agentic Value of Intrusive Thoughts" *Philosophers' Imprint*, forthcoming.

Waggoner, M. "Moral Illusions" *Philosophical Psychology*, forthcoming.

Waggoner, M. "Idealization in Moral Understanding: Grasping Less but Acting Better" *Episteme*, forthcoming.

Waggoner, M. "What's Love (and Belonging) Got to do With It? Negative and Positive Conative Elements Underlying Gritty Faith. *Faith and Philosophy* 41, no. 2 (2025): 223-238.

Waggoner, M., Doris, J., and Vargas, M. "Situationism, Moral Improvement, and Moral Responsibility." In *The Oxford Handbook of Moral Psychology*, edited by J. Doris and M. Vargas. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (2022)

Waggoner, M. "The Focus of Virtue: Broadening Attention in Empirically Informed Accounts of Virtue Cultivation." *Philosophical Psychology* 34, no. 8 (2021): 1217-1245.

BOOK REVIEWS

Waggoner, M. "Review of Minding the Moral Gap, by Karen Stohr." *Journal of Moral Philosophy* 18, no. 5 (2021): 546-549.

PAPERS UNDER REVIEW

A paper on an empirical disunity of the virtue

INVITED TALKS

"The Tension of the Virtues"

Philosophy Department Talk, Providence College, Providence RI 2025

"Socially Extended Moral Understanding and AI Homogenization"

Deference & Technology Workshop, WUSTL, St. Louis, MO 2025

"Intrusive Thoughts, Values, and Agency"

Philosophy Department Colloquium, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN 2024

PEER REFEREED PRESENTATIONS

"A Good Ventee is Hard to Find" (with Julia Smith & Adam Waggoner)	
American Philosophical Association, Pacific Meeting	(Expected April) 2026
"An Empirical Defense for Fearing the Fires of Hell"	
Society of Christian Philosophers, Midwest Meeting, Asbury KY	2025
"The Role of Negative Moral Exemplars in Virtue Development"	
Society of Christian Philosophers, Eastern Meeting, Montgomery, AL	2024
"Becoming One's Own Moral Compass: A Second Component of Moral Understanding"	
American Philosophical Association, Eastern Meeting, Baltimore, MD	2022
"When Should We Defer? Empirical Underpinnings of Moral Judgment-Making and Their Implications for the Moral Testimony Debate"	
University of Michigan Mind and Moral Psychology Conference, Ann Arbor, MI	2020
"The Focus of Virtue: Broadening Attention in Empirically Informed Accounts of Virtue Cultivation"	
American Philosophical Association, Eastern Meeting, Philadelphia, PA	2020
<i>*Sanders Graduate Student Paper Award*</i>	
"Finding Meaning in Horrendous Evils: The Influence of Emotion and Community"	
American Catholic Philosophical Association Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN	2019
Society of Christian Philosophers Central Meeting, Holland, MI, USA	2019
"Emotion and Moral Judgment: When Virtue Leads You Astray"	
Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology Annual Meeting, Cincinnati OH	2019
Central States Philosophical Association Annual Meeting, Buffalo, NY	2018
"The Pro-Attitude Requirement for Faith: Augustine and the Emotions"	
Western Michigan University Graduate Conference, Kalamazoo, MI	2018
"Why We Should Promote Residential Integration: A Response to Tommie Shelby"	
Central States Philosophical Association Annual Meeting, St. Louis, MO	2017
"The Body of Christ and The Principle of Totality: A Case for Intercommunion"	
Society of Christian Philosophers, Eastern Meeting, Asbury, KY	2017
"Cognitive vs. Non-Cognitive Views on Salvific Faith: What Does the Empirical Evidence Support?"	
Templeton Interfaith Workshop, Royal Institute for Interfaith Studies, Amman, Jordan	2017

“Re-Fanging the Skeptical Worry in the Attribution of Agency”	
Saint Louis University Graduate Conference, St. Louis, MO	2017
Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Baltimore, MD	2017
“Situationism and the Discerning Situation: The Need for Robust Character Traits”	
Philosophers’ Cocoon Philosophy Conference, Tampa, FL	2015
Illinois Philosophical Association Fall Meeting, Charleston IL	2015
“The Vice of Skepticism: Excessive Desire for Knowledge”	
Epistemic Vice Conference, Durham University, Durham, UK	2015
“Defending Virtue Ethics”	
Illinois University Graduate Conference, Urbana-Champaign, IL	2013
“What Peter Vranas May not be Able to Do”	
Indiana Philosophical Association Fall Meeting, Indianapolis, IN, USA	2012

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record	
Purdue University	2023-present
Moral Minds: The Nature of Right and Wrong	
Global Moral Issues (x3)	
Ethics for Engineering, Technology, and Design	
Transformative Texts: Critical Thinking & Communication (x3)	
University College at Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO	2018-2020
Biomedical Ethics (x2)	
Business Ethics (Online)	
Pre-College Exploratory Program – Washington University in St. Louis, MO	2022-2023
What Should I Believe and Why? (x2, Online)	
Assumption Catholic High School, Wisconsin Rapids, WI	2014-2016
Christian Apologetics (x2)	
New Testament (x4)	
Our Personality Patterns	
Social Ethics & Moral Reasoning (x7)	
Value Debate	

Teaching Assistant

Washington University in St. Louis, St Louis, MO	2017-2019
Biomedical Ethics (Charlie Kurth)	
Great Philosophers (Allan Hazlett)	
Logic and Critical Analysis (John Heil)	
Present Moral Problems (Kit Wellman)	
Northern Illinois University, Dekalb, IL, USA	2012-2014
Contemporary Moral Issues x2 (Steve Daskal, Jason Hanna)	
Logic and Critical Reasoning (Nicoleta Apostol)	
Modern Philosophy (Geoff Pynn)	

TRAINING IN TEACHING AND CERTIFICATION

Washington University in St. Louis – <i>Teaching Certification</i>	2022
Washington University in St. Louis Professional Development in Teaching Program	2018-2021
University College at Washington University in St. Louis Online Teaching Training Course	2020
Washington University in St. Louis Philosophy Department Teacher Training Course	2017-2018
University of Notre Dame Science and Religion in Education Summer Teaching Program	2015

AWARDS AND GRANTS

Society of Christian Philosophers Cross Training Grant Recipient in Psychology	2021-2022
<i>Grant in amount of \$34,000; Release of teaching and departmental obligations to train in psychology research lab, under the supervision of Dr. Ethan Kross</i>	
American Philosophical Association Sanders Graduate Student Paper Award	2020
<i>Award in amount of \$1,000 for the paper, "The Focus of Virtue: Broadening Attention in Empirically Informed Accounts of Virtue Cultivation"</i>	
Sherwin B. Nuland Summer Institute in Bioethics, Yale University - Tuition Waiver Recipient	2019
<i>Acceptance into 7-week intensive summer program on bioethics; Tuition of amount \$1,700 waived</i>	
Catholic Student Center at WUSTL Young Catholic Scholars Grant Recipient	2017-2018
<i>Award in amount of \$1,000 and given opportunity to participate in Young Catholic Scholars Reading Group</i>	
University of St. Thomas Young Scholars Grant Recipient in Philosophy	2011
<i>Award in amount of \$4,000 for engaging in philosophical research on the topic of counterfactuals and philosophy of action, supervised by Dr. Tim Pawl</i>	

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE

Editorial Board Member, Society of Christian Philosophers	2025-present
Co-Advisor, Purdue University Graduate Student Dissertation Committee	2025-present
Invited Participant, Veritas Scholars Summit, Park City, UT, (funding & stipend awarded)	2024
Member, Purdue University Graduate Student Advisory Committee	2024-present
Executive Committee Member, Society of Christian Philosophers	2024-present
Referee, <i>Synthese</i> , <i>Philosophical Quarterly</i> , <i>Dialectica</i> , <i>The Journal of Ethics</i> (x3)	
Invited Participant, Beacon Project Summer Seminar: "Character and the Morally Exceptional: Empirical Discoveries and Moral Improvement," Wake Forest (funding & stipend awarded) University	2018
Invited Participant, Natural Law & Public Affairs Seminar, The Witherspoon Institute	2017