
Yoaav Isaacs

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Department of Philosophy, University of Southern California
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EMPLOYMENT

Postdoctoral Research Associate

University of Southern California
2018–Present

Research Assistant Professor in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
2016–2018

EDUCATION

Ph.D in Philosophy: Princeton University, 2011–2016

M.Phil in Philosophical Theology: Oxford University, 2009–2011

MA in Divinity: The University of Chicago, 2007–2009

MA in Eastern Classics: St. John's College, 2006–2007

BA in the Liberal Arts: St. John's College, 2001–2005

INTERESTS

AOS: Epistemology, Philosophy of Religion, Philosophy Politics and Economics

AOC: Applied Ethics, Eastern Philosophy

PUBLICATIONS

A Patchwork Epistemology of Disagreement?

Philosophical Studies, forthcoming.

Accounting for Intrinsic Values in the Federal Student Loan System (with Jason Iuliano)

in *The Handbook of Philosophy and Public Policy* (ed. David Boonin), Palgrave Macmillan, forthcoming.

Fine-Tuning Fine-Tuning (with John Hawthorne)

in *Knowledge, Belief, and God* (ed. Matthew Benton, John Hawthorne, and Dani Rabinowitz), Oxford University Press (2018).

Misapprehensions About the Fine-Tuning Argument (with John Hawthorne)

Philosophy 81:133-155 (2017).

Probabilities Cannot Be Rationally Neglected

Mind 125 (499):759-762 (2016).

Evil and Evidence (with John Hawthorne and Matthew Benton)

Oxford Studies in Philosophy of Religion 7:1-31 (2016).

Duty and Knowledge

Philosophical Perspectives 28 (1):95-110 (2014).

A New Prospect for Epistemic Aggregation (with Daniel Berntson)

Episteme 10 (3):269-281 (2013).

TALKS

Prospects for Prioritarianism

Chapel Hill PPE Workshop, August 2017.

Evil and Evidence

Central APA, March 2017.

Rutgers Religion on the Raritan, May 2014.

Duty and Knowledge

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, January 2017.

University of St. Andrews, December 2015.

ANU Philosophical Society, August 2014.

Princeton Dissertation Seminar, February 2014.

University Sexual Misconduct Policies: A Probabilistic Evaluation

Chapel Hill PPE Workshop, August 2016.

A Practical Guide to the St. Petersburg Paradox

ANU Philosophical Society, September 2015.

Faith and Reason Reconsidered

Seminar on the Value and Evaluation of Faith, July 2015.

Self-Confident Decision Theory

Society for Exact Philosophy, June 2014.

Princeton Philosophical Society, March 2013.

Comments on Safe Belief

Oxford New Insights and Directions for Religious Epistemology, June 2013.

A New Prospect for Epistemic Aggregation (with Daniel Berntson)

Rutgers Social Epistemology Workshop, April 2013.

Formal Issues in the Epistemology of Disagreement

Rochester Graduate Epistemology Conference, October 2012.

HONORS

Research Grant for The Foundations of Fine-Tuning (with John Hawthorne and Aron Wall)

\$234,800 grant for applying formal epistemology to particle physics, 2018-2020.

UNC Chapel Hill Junior Faculty Development Award

\$7,500 grant for project on decision theory, 2016.

Research Grant from the Nature and Value of Faith Project

\$4,000 grant for project on the relationship between faith and reason, 2015.

Charles W. Lummis Scholarship

Competitive fellowship awarded by Princeton University, 2011–2016.

TEACHING

AT UNC CHAPEL HILL (Primary Instructor)

Gateway to Philosophy, Politics, and Economics – Spring 2018

Morality and Business – Spring 2018

The Ethics of Peace, War, and Defense – Fall 2017

Gateway to Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (with Jeff Spinner-Halev) – Fall 2017

Bioethics – Spring 2017

The Ethics of Peace, War, and Defense – Spring 2017

Bioethics (2 sections) – Fall 2016

AT RUTGERS UNIVERSITY (Primary Instructor)

Logic, Reasoning, and Persuasion – Spring 2015

AT PRINCETON UNIVERSITY (Assistant Instructor)

Philosophical Analysis Using Argument Maps – Fall 2014

Nietzsche (2 sections) – Spring 2014

Introduction to Metaphysics and Epistemology (2 sections) – Spring 2013

SERVICE

Judge, National High School Ethics Bowl, 2018.

Coordination Team, Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society, 2017 and 2018.

Leader, UNC Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Reading Group, 2016 and 2017.

Referee, *Mind*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Synthese*, *Erkenntnis*, *Faith and Philosophy*.

Referee, Irvine-Pittsburgh-Princeton Conference on the Mathematical and Conceptual Foundations of Physics, 2013.

BRIEF

DISSERTATION SUMMARY

Decision theory is concerned with how agents should choose under uncertainty. In my dissertation I argue that standard decision theories overlook uncertainty about *oneself*—they offer inadequate guidance to agents who lack self-knowledge. I then develop alternative theories that do better. In the first main part, I develop a theory for agents who are uncertain about their own credences, utilities, available acts, and decision functions. In the second main part, I develop a theory for agents who are uncertain about their evidence.

Dissertation Committee: Adam Elga (chair), Thomas Kelly, Hans Halvorson, Desmond Hogan

REFERENCES

Adam Elga
Professor of Philosophy
Princeton University
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John Hawthorne
Professor of Philosophy
University of Southern California
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Alan Hájek
Professor of Philosophy
Australia National University
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Thomas Kelly
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Princeton University
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Geoff Sayre-McCord
Morehead-Cain Alumni Distinguished Professor
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