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**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

**AOC:** Applied Ethics, Eastern Philosophy

**PUBLICATIONS**

**The Problems of Transformative Experience**

*Philosophical Studies*, forthcoming.

**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****The Logical Structure of Lying in Kant's *Groundwork***

Carnegie Mellon University, October 2018.

**Two Notions of Calibrationism**

Rutgers University, October 2018.

University of Southern California, September 2018.

**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**, *Philosophical Review*, *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  
jhawthor@usc.edu

Alan Hájek  
Professor of Philosophy  
Australia National University  
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Thomas Kelly  
Professor of Philosophy  
Princeton University  
tkelly@princeton.edu

Geoff Sayre-McCord  
Morehead-Cain Alumni Distinguished Professor  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
sayre-mccord@unc.edu