

Michael Carrick

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CURRENT POSITIONS

Adjunct Instructor
University of Rochester (2019 - present)

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

Adjunct Instructor
SUNY Geneseo (2021 - 2023)

Adjunct Instructor
The University of Nebraska, Omaha (Fall 2022)

RESEARCH

Areas of Specialization: Applied Ethics, especially environmental ethics and bioethics, and Value Theory

Areas of Competence: Political and Social Philosophy, Business Ethics, Metaethics, Philosophy of Science, Metaphysics

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Philosophy, Expected August 2024 – University of Rochester

Dissertation: *The Capacities First Approach: A New Theory of Animal Welfare*

Committee: William FitzPatrick (advisor), Randall Curren, Bob Fischer

M.A. in Philosophy, May 2016 – University of Colorado, Boulder

Thesis: *Taking Luck Seriously: A Critique of Enoch's Third-Factor Pre-Established Harmony Explanation*

Committee: Chris Heathwood (advisor), Michael Huemer, Graham Oddie

B.A. in Philosophy and History, May 2010 – University of Vermont

Honors Thesis: *The Sickness Unto Death: The Self, Despair, and the Three Stages of Existence*

Committee: Terence Cuneo (advisor), Tyler Doggett, Richard Sugarman

DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

My dissertation provides a theoretical foundation for a philosophy of animal welfare. I argue that a theory of welfare should appropriately fit the welfare subject being considered. However, because the class of nonhuman animals is so large and varied, and different animals have different sets of capacities to different degrees, I argue that none of the major theories of welfare are a good fit for all welfare subjects. This leads me to present a variabilist conception of animal welfare: we should apply different theories of welfare to different welfare subjects, by applying the theory of welfare that best fits the teleological profile of the welfare subject under consideration. I put forth the capacity-first account of welfare, that says when determining what theory of welfare to apply to a welfare subject, we must first look at the cognitive and emotional capacities of the welfare subject. For those creatures with less cognitively and emotionally complex capacities, we should put more weight on hedonistic elements when measuring their welfare, and for those creatures with greater cognitive and emotional complexities, we should put greater emphasis on the satisfaction of preferences. I conclude the dissertation by showing how my capacity-first account of animal welfare makes a difference for two debates within animal ethics: holding animals in captivity and replaceability arguments in support of humane omnivorism.

PUBLICATIONS

Carrick, Michael. "Preserving the Preservation of Opportunity Principle." *Ethics, Policy & Environment* (2023): 1 - 15.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

On the Possibility and Probability of Post-Persons – Under Review

A Qualitative Hedonistic Account of Animal Welfare – work in progress

PRESENTATIONS

Invited

New College of Florida, Departmental Colloquium, March 7, 2024: "Applying Qualitative Hedonism to Non-Human Animals"

University of Nebraska, Omaha, Departmental Colloquium, February 24, 2023: "Applying Qualitative Hedonism to Non-Human Animals"

Pacific APA Panel, April 14, 2022: Interspecies Welfare Comparisons

Refereed

Rochester Institute of Technology, Field Philosophy Workshop, June 8 - 10, 2022: "Wildlife Corridors and Animal Welfare Assessments"

International Neuroethics Society, Conference, May 2021: "Thresholds, Inexpressibility, and Personhood"

University of North Carolina, Charlotte, Graduate Conference, April 17, 2021: "Thresholds, Inexpressibility, and Personhood"

SUNY Binghamton, Graduate Conference, April 17, 2020 (accepted/cancelled due to Covid-19)

University of South Florida, Graduate Conference, April 3 - 5, 2020: "Thresholds, Inexpressibility, and Personhood"

TEACHING

Adjunct Professor: University of Rochester, Department of Philosophy

- 101: Introduction to Philosophy, Summer 2019
- 102: Ethics, Spring 2021, Spring 2022, Spring 2023, Spring 2024
- 103: Moral Problems, Summer 2020, Summer 2021
- 223: Social and Political Philosophy, Fall 2023
- 230: Environmental Justice, Spring 2024

Adjunct Professor: State University of New York, Geneseo, Department of Philosophy

- 100: Introduction to Philosophy, Fall 2021
- 201: Environmental Ethics, Spring 2023
- 237: Business Ethics, Spring 2022
- 362: Philosophy of Science, Fall 2021
- INTD 105: Writing Seminar (Philosophical Perspectives on Death), Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2022
- HONR 101: The Nature of Inquiry, Fall 2023
- Independent Study: Is Death Bad?, Spring 2022

Adjunct Professor: University of Nebraska, Omaha

- 1020: Moral Problems (2 units), Fall 2022

Graduate Teaching Assistant: University of Rochester, Department of Philosophy

- 101: Introduction to Philosophy, Spring 2019
- 103: Moral Problems, Spring 2020, Fall 2020
- 110: Introductory Logic, Fall 2018
- 223: Social and Political Philosophy, Fall 2019
- 225: Ethical Decisions in Medicine, Spring 2018
- 226: Philosophy of Law, Spring 2020
- 228: Public Health Ethics, Fall 2017

Graduate Teaching Assistant: University of Colorado, Boulder, Department of Philosophy

- 101: Introduction to Philosophy, Fall 2015

HONORS / AWARDS

Outstanding Graduate Student Essay, University of Rochester Philosophy Department, 2018:
“Future Generations and Our Obligations to Nonhuman Animals: A Discussion of the
Preservation of Opportunity Principle”

TA of the Year, University of Rochester Philosophy Department, 2018 - 19

COURSE WORK

University of Rochester

- Public Health Ethics – Professor: Richard Dees
- Neuroethics – Professor: Richard Dees
- Darwin and Religion – Professors: Hayley Clatterbuck and H. Allen Orr
- Ethics Seminar: Free Will and Moral Responsibility – Professor: William FitzPatrick
- Intermediate Logic – Professor: Brett Sherman
- Epistemology Seminar: Skepticism – Professor: Earl Conee
- Metaphysics – Professor: Paul Audi
- History of Ancient Philosophy – Professor: Deborah Modrak
- History of Modern Philosophy: Hume and Reid – Professor: Alison Peterman
- Environmental Justice – Professor: Randy Curren
- Metaphysics Seminar: Time – Professor: Paul Audi
- Ethics Seminar: Human Rights – Professor: William FitzPatrick
- Enlightenment Political Philosophy – Professor: Richard Dees
- Kant’s *Critique of Pure Reason* – Professor: Alison Peterman (1 credit course)
- Post-Kantian German Idealism – Professor: Alison Peterman (2 credit course)
- Philosophy of Science – Professor: Haley Clatterbuck (1 credit course)

- Metaphysics Seminar: The Self – Professors: Earl Conee and Paul Audi (1 credit course)

University of Colorado, Boulder

- First Year Ethics Seminar - Professors: Alison Jagger, Chris Heathwood, Eric Chwang, and Adam Hosein
- Contemporary Political Philosophy – Professor: Alison Jagger
- Epistemology – Professor: Michael Huemer
- Metaphysics – Professor: Carol Cleland
- Nietzsche – Professor: Michael Zimmerman
- Ancient Philosophy Seminar: Free Will – Professor: Mitzi Lee
- Environmental Ethics Seminar – Professor: Michael Zimmerman
- Metaphysics Seminar: Metaphysics of Value – Professor: Graham Oddie

MEMBERSHIPS / AFFILIATIONS

American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division

Philosophy Outreach Program of Colorado (University of Colorado, Boulder)

Graduate Student Mentor (University of Colorado, Boulder)

Master Graduate Teaching Assistant (University of Rochester)

REFERENCES:

Dr. William FitzPatrick

Institution: University of Rochester

Email: William.fitzpatrick@rochester.edu

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Dr. Rosa Terlazzo

Institution: University of Rochester

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Phone: (585) 275-4105

Dr. Randall Curren

Institution: University of Rochester

Email: randall.curren@rochester.edu

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Dr. Robert Fischer

Institution: Texas State University

Email: fischer@txstate.edu

Phone: (512) 245-2403

Dr. Amanda Roth

Institution: State University of New York, Geneseo

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