

# Mark H. Herman

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2023

## CONTACT:

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## AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION:

Moral Psychology, Ethics, Scholarship of Teaching & Learning

## AREAS OF COMPETENCE:

Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Psychology, Philosophy of Mind

## ADDITIONAL AREAS OF TEACHING SPECIALIZATION:

Moral Critical Thinking & Decision-Making, Critical Thinking, Logic

## EDUCATION

Ph.D., Philosophy, Bowling Green State University, 2019.

Dissertation: *Subjective Moral Biases & Fallacies: Developing Scientifically & Practically Adequate Moral Analogues of Cognitive Heuristics & Biases*

Committee: Sara Worley (Chair), Michael Weber, Michael Bradie, Theodore Bach, Richard Anderson (Psychology)

B.A., Music, Wesleyan University, 2000.

## POSITIONS

Lecturer of Philosophy, Arkansas State University (2020- )

## AWARDS

Teaching Award: Non-Tenure-Track, College of Liberal Arts & Communication  
(Arkansas State University, 2022-2023)

**PUBLICATIONS**

- “From Outside or Inside?: Priming Introductory-Level Students’ Philosophical Disposition,” *AAPT Studies in Pedagogy* 8 (2023): 102-105.
- “What our Explanatory Expectations of Cognitive Heuristics Should Be,” *Southwest Philosophy Review* 38(1) (2022): 91-102.
- “Moral Heuristics and Biases,” *Journal of Cognition & Neuroethics* 2 (2014): 127-142.

**REFEREED PRESENTATIONS (SELECTIONS)**

**Teaching & Learning**

- “Course on Improving Moral Critical Thinking & Decision-Making: Which Methods Should be Taught?” (*variations of*)
- American Philosophical Association (Eastern Division, 2023)
  - Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress (RoME) (2021)
  - Society for Ethics Across the Curriculum (2021)
  - North American Association for Philosophy & Education (2021)
  - Concerned Philosophers for Peace (2021)
- “Teaching Ethical Critical Thinking about Race: Fundamental Presuppositions”
- Ethics & Race (Great Lakes Philosophy Conference, 2023)
  - Canadian Society for the Study of Practical Ethics (2023)
  - Society for the Philosophical Study of Education (2023)
- “Assessment Considerations for Ethics Education”
- Association for Practical and Professional Ethics (panel, 2023)
- “Practical, Non-Paternalistic Ethics Education: Achieving Assessment-Measure Balance via Moral Psychological (Self-) Knowledge”
- Society for Ethics Across the Curriculum (2023)
  - Society for the Philosophical Study of Education (2023)
- “Moral Critical Thinking: Survey of Higher-Education Course Content”
- Association of Informal Logic and Critical Thinking (2022)
  - Society for Ethics Across the Curriculum (2022)
- “Create Your Own Thought Experiment”
- American Association of Philosophy Teachers (2022)

CONTINUED: REFEREED PRESENTATIONS (SELECTIONS)

Continued: Teaching & Learning

“Teaching Disparate Philosophical Areas’ Relevance to Applied Ethics: Metaphysics, Philosophy of Mind, & Racial Bias”

- Association for Practical and Professional Ethics (2022)

“From Outside or Inside? Priming Intro Students’ Philosophical Dispositions”

- Australasian Association of Philosophy (2022)

“A Pedagogical Case for Ethics First and Epistemology Last in Intro: Against Foundationalist Topic-Sequencing in Introduction to Philosophy Courses”

- American Association of Philosophy Teachers (*What We Teach*, 2021)

- American Philosophical Association (Central Division, 2021)

Additional Research

“Grounding Moral Debiasing within a Scientific Context: What is the Criterion of Moral Error?”

- Canadian Philosophical Association (2023)

- American Philosophical Association (Eastern Division, 2022)

“Is Objective Moral Truth ‘Admissible’ in Scientific Moral Psychology?” (*variations of*)

- International Society for the Philosophy of the Sciences of the Mind (2023)

- Values in Medicine, Science, and Technology (2022)

“Enhancing Moral Agency: Moral Rationality & Idealization”

- Central States Philosophical Association (2022)

“Cognitive Heuristics: Mechanisms, Contrastive Kinds and the Recalcitrant Baggage of Descriptive Rational Choice Theory” (*variations of*)

- Northwest Philosophy Conference (2021)

- Southwestern Philosophical Society (2021)

- Philosophy of Social Science Roundtable (2020)

“Towards Enhancing Moral Agency through Subjective Moral Debiasing”

- American Philosophical Association (Eastern Division, 2020)

**COURSES TAUGHT**

**Introductory Courses**

Introduction to Philosophy (55x)

*Online, Hybrid,*

*Blended, & In-person*

Introduction to Ethics (2x)

**Logic & Critical Thinking**

Logic & Critical Thinking (2x)

Logic & Practical Reasoning (3x)

Introduction to Logic (7x)

**Philosophy of Psychology & Mind**

Philosophy of Psychology

Philosophy of Mind

**Applied Ethics**

Computers & Philosophy (2x)

Bioethics of Death & Dying (2x)

*Online & In-Person*

Medical Ethics (*Online*)

Contemporary Moral Issues

Environmental Ethics

**Political Philosophy**

Modern Political Ideologies

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (SELECTIONS)**

**Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**

Implementing DEI-Focused Programmatic Change [6-hour workshop], Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning (Arkansas State University, 2022)

Creating an Inclusive Classroom Climate and Culture [8-hour online course], Magna Publications (Arkansas State University, 2022)

**Additional Professional Development**

Certificate in Effective College Instruction: Effective Teaching Practices [year-long online course], Association of College & University Educators (Arkansas State University, Fall 2021-Spring 2022)

Seminar on Teaching & Learning in Philosophy [12-hour workshop], American Association of Philosophy Teachers (2021)

BGSU Teaching & Learning Certificate, Center for Faculty Excellence (Bowling Green State University, 2020)

Active Learning Classroom Certification, Center for Faculty Excellence (BGSU, 2020)

**SERVICE & RELATED ACTIVITIES (SELECTIONS)**

Faculty Advisor/Co-Advisor, Philosophy Club (Arkansas State University, 2020-present)

Website Design (DotCMS) & Maintenance, Philosophy section of the Department of English & Philosophy website, <https://www.astate.edu/college/liberal-arts/departments/english-and-philosophy/philosophy/> (Arkansas State University, 2020-present)

Lead Coordinator, Inclusive Philosophical Pedagogy Working Group (BGSU, 2020)

**DISSERTATION ABSTRACT**

*Subjective Moral Biases & Fallacies: Developing Scientifically & Practically Adequate Moral Analogues of Cognitive Heuristics & Biases*

Cognitive heuristics are reasoning “shortcuts” that are efficient but flawed. Such flaws result in systematic errors—that is, cognitive biases. For example, the availability heuristic “infers” an event’s probability by assessing the ease with which similar events can be recalled. Since dramatic events, such as plane crashes, are disproportionately easy to recall, this heuristic explains the cognitive bias of overestimating the likelihood of plane crashes. The research program on cognitive heuristics and biases has been scientifically successful and has yielded techniques for reducing such errors—that is, cognitive debiasing. In my dissertation, I take the conceptual framework of heuristics and biases and apply it to moral reasoning to yield an analogous research program on moral heuristics and biases. For instance, a moral heuristic of “inferring” an animal’s moral status from their aesthetic features would help explain the moral bias of unprincipled differences in the treatment of different animal species. I argue that, with respect to scientific and practical requirements, the best criterion for a judgment, decision, or action constituting a moral error is violating an idealized form of subjective morality. This establishes subjective moral errors and biases—for example, unconscious discrimination by a committed egalitarian. I also argue that since the concept, ‘heuristic,’ is committed to incompatible explanatory tasks, ‘heuristic’ should be replaced with ‘fallacy.’ The resultant subjective moral biases and fallacies framework can support fruitful moral psychological research and yield subjective moral debiasing techniques that generate moral improvement and have applications in higher education and the public square.

**REFERENCES**

**Sara Worley**

Associate Professor of Philosophy  
Bowling Green State University  
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**Michael Weber**

Professor of Philosophy and Chair  
Bowling Green State University  
meweber@bgsu.edu

**Theodore Bach**

Associate Professor of Philosophy  
Bowling Green State University, Firelands  
tbach@bgsu.edu

**Molly Gardner** (Teaching Reference)

Assistant Professor of Philosophy  
Bowling Green State University  
mollyg@bgsu.edu