

MARIA WAGGONER

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AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

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Moral Psychology, Ethics, Philosophy of Mind

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

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Applied Ethics, Epistemology, Philosophy of Religion, Modern Philosophy, Political Philosophy

EDUCATION

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University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA

Visiting Graduate Student, Psychology Department 2021-2023

Faculty Advisor: Ethan Kross

Visiting Graduate Student, Philosophy Department 2020-2021

Faculty Advisor: Peter Railton

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

Ph.D., Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology 2016-2023 (exp)

*Dissertation:* Is Our Greatest Virtue Also Our Greatest Vice?

*Abstract:* My dissertation sheds light on new and unacknowledged difficulties that we face in striving to be (more) virtuous. By making use of empirical literature from moral, affective, and perceptual learning, I explore the potential cognitive and psychological relationships between having a virtue in one context and the tendency to exhibit vices in another. I do this by showing how morally good behavioral habits can also lead to morally inappropriate actions, when a virtuous moral perceptual system can give rise to moral illusions, and when our basic evaluative affective responses have been desensitized due to overexposure – leading to morally beneficial and adaptive responses in some cases, but problematic in others. I then connect this to recent debates on the nature of moral understanding and its relationship to virtue. I argue that virtue, rather than merely a lack of it, can lead to a deficiency in one’s moral understanding. I use this to make room for when a virtuous person can and ought to defer to another’s moral testimony.

*Committee:* Allan Hazlett, Ron Mallon, Anne Baril, John Doris (Cornell University), Ethan Kross (University of Michigan, Psychology)

M.A., Philosophy-Neuroscience-Psychology

2016-2019

Northern Illinois University, Dekalb, IL, USA	
M.A., Philosophy	2012-2014
University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN, USA	
B.A., Philosophy	2008-2012
B.S., Exercise Science	2008-2012

#### PUBLICATIONS

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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.

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

#### PAPERS UNDER REVIEW

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A paper on moral perception and virtue (at *Philosophers' Imprint*)

A paper on moral understanding and moral reasoning (at *Analysis*)

#### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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- "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  
*\*Sanders Graduate Student Paper Award\**
- "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

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##### Instructor of Record

- University College at Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO 2018-present  
 Biomedical Ethics (x2)  
 Business Ethics (Online)
- Pre-College Exploratory Program – Washington University in St. Louis, MO 2022  
 What Should I Believe and Why? (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	
Contemporary Moral Issues x2 (Steve Daskal, Jason Hanna)	2012-2014
Logic and Critical Reasoning (Nicoleta Apostol)	
Modern Philosophy (Geoff Pynn)	

#### TRAINING IN TEACHING AND CERTIFICATION

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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

#### TEACHING RELATED OUTREACH

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##### Coach, Ethics Bowl

Skyline High School (Ann Arbor, MI)	2020-2021
Pioneer High School (Ann Arbor, MI)	2021-2022
<i>Over the course of five months, I met with students weekly/bi-weekly to discuss cases for Ethics Bowl and instruct students on underlying ethical principles and concepts.</i>	

##### Mentor, Philosophy with Kids

Novi Community Elementary School (Novi, MI)	2021
Lincoln Middle School (Ypsilanti, MI)	2022
<i>Over the course of six weeks, I met weekly with primary school students to introduce and discuss a new philosophical topic. Examples of topics covered: Morality and self-driving cars; What is consciousness, and do robots have it? What is art?</i>	

## AWARDS AND GRANTS

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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

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Organizer, Professional Development Group, WUSTL	2022-present
Referee, <i>The Journal of Ethics</i>	2020-present
Organizer, Moral Cognition Reading Group, WUSTL	2020
Graduate Student Representative, Philosophy Job Search Committee, WUSTL	2018-2019
Philosophy Department Peer Mentor, WUSTL	2017-2019
Invited Participant, Beacon Project Summer Seminar: "Character and the Morally Exceptional: Empirical Discoveries and Moral Improvement," Wake Forest University	2018
Invited Participant, Natural Law & Public Affairs Seminar, The Witherspoon Institute	2017
Invited Participant, Sexuality and Gender Studies: Practical and Political Sources Theoretical Frameworks, and Recent Debates, The Berkeley Institute	2016

## GRADUATE COURSEWORK

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*=audit	
20 <sup>th</sup> Century Analytic Philosophy*	David Buller, NIU
Advanced Cognitive, Computational and Systems Neuroscience	Todd Braver, WUSTL
Advanced Ethical Theory: A Survey	Jason Hanna, NIU
Advanced Ethical Theory: Special Topics – Consequentialism	Steve Daskal, NIU
Advanced Political and Social Philosophy	Kit Wellman, WUSTL

Advanced Seminar in Cognitive Psychology: Concept Learning	Mark McDaniel, WUSTL
British Moralists	Julia Driver, WUSTL
Epistemology	Geoff Pynn, NIU
Independent Work: The Virtue of Faith	Jon Kvanvig, WUSTL
Independent Work: Philosophy of Emotion	Charlie Kurth, WUSTL
Inside the Disordered Brain: Biological Bases of Major Mental Disorders	Ryan Bogdan, WUSTL
Intermediate Logic	Tomis Kapitan, NIU
Learning and Innateness*	Zoe Jenkin, WUSTL
Major Philosophers: Aristotle	Alicia Finch, NIU
Medieval Philosophy	Jack Marler, St. Louis Univ.
Metaphysics of Science	Carl Gillett, NIU
Metaphysics: Special Topics – Metametaphysics	Alicia Finch, NIU
Moral Emotions and Blame*	Julia Driver, WUSTL
Moral Judgment and Action	Ron Mallon, WUSTL
Philosophy of Language*	Leonard Clapp, NIU
Philosophy of Mind	Leonard Clapp, NIU
Philosophy Writing Workshop	Anya Plutynski, WUSTL
Political and Social Philosophy	Jason Hanna, NIU
Political Psychology	Alan Lambert, WUSTL
Proseminar: 20 <sup>th</sup> Century Analytic Philosophy of Mind	Casey O'Callahan, WUSTL
Problems in Philosophy of Religion: Punishment and Forgiveness	Eleonore Stump, St. Louis Univ.
Quantitative Methods I	Mike Strube, WUSTL
Research Methods	Ian Dobbins, WUSTL
Social Psychology Research Methods*	Amie Gordon, Univ. of Michigan
Symbolic Logic	Jon Kvanvig, WUSTL
Topics in History of Philosophy: British Empiricism	Tomis Kapitan, NIU
Topics in Philosophy of Mind*	Sarah Moss, Univ. of Michigan

## REFERENCES

Allan Hazlett  
 Washington University in St. Louis  
 Associate Professor of Philosophy  
 Director of Graduate Studies  
[ahazlett@wustl.edu](mailto:ahazlett@wustl.edu)

Christian Miller  
 Wake Forest University  
 A. C. Reid Professor of Philosophy  
[millercc@wfu.edu](mailto:millercc@wfu.edu)

John Doris  
 Cornell University  
 Peter L. Dyson Professor of Ethics, Charles  
 H. Dyson School of Applied Economics and  
 Management  
 Professor of Philosophy  
[jmd378@cornell.edu](mailto:jmd378@cornell.edu)

Peter Railton  
University of Michigan  
Gregory S. Kavka Distinguished University Professor  
John Stephenson Perrin Professor  
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor  
[prailton@umich.edu](mailto:prailton@umich.edu)

Anne Baril (Teaching Reference)  
Washington University in St. Louis  
Lecturer in Philosophy  
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Charlie Kurth (Teaching Reference)  
Western Michigan University  
Associate Professor of Philosophy  
[charles.kurth@wmich.edu](mailto:charles.kurth@wmich.edu)