

Joshua R. Petersen

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PhilPapers: [joshua-petersen](https://philpapers.org/archive/joshua-petersen)

Research interests

Legal + Political Philosophy, Environmental Law and Justice
Private Law Theory, Civil Procedure, Epistemology

Education

University of Michigan Ann Arbor, MI
PhD Candidate in Philosophy 2023 – Present
MA in Philosophy (awarded in passing) 2021 – 2023

Stanford Law School Stanford, CA
Juris Doctor 2023 – Present

Stanford University Stanford, CA
BA with honors in Philosophy and German Studies 2014 – 2019
Thesis: *Dynamics of Incoherence* (advised by Ray Briggs)
Conferred with Honors and Distinction

Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg Freiburg, Germany
Non-Degree Study Oct. 2016 – Aug. 2017

Selected Honors and Awards

Gunther Prize for Outstanding Performance (x2), Stanford Law 2024
SPLICE Prize (Departmental Service Award), U. of Michigan 2023
Rackham Conference Grant (x2), U. of Michigan 2022, 2023
Phi Kappa Phi, U. of Michigan 2023
Study Grant, NASSLLI 2022 2022
JE Wallace Sterling Award for Scholastic Achievement, Stanford 2019
Suppes Prize for Excellence in Philosophy, Stanford 2019
Phi Beta Kappa, early election 2018
National Finalist, Rhodes Scholarship 2018
National Finalist, Marshall Scholarship 2018
Alexander Stephan Prize, The Ohio State University 2018
DAAD Undergraduate Fellow 2016-2017

Talks

* = anon review

† = invited

“How Race Makes Place: Why Market-Based Solutions Will Not Solve Housing Displacement”

- *Markets and Morality Graduate Conference*, University of Toronto, November 2022*
- *Graduate Conference in Ethics and Public Affairs*, Carleton University, November 2022*
- *Race, Gender, and Feminist Philosophy Reading Group*, University of Michigan, March 2022

“Neurodivergence and Normative Signals”

- *Epistemological Considerations for a Diverse Society*, Boston University, March 2023
- *Michigan-MIT Social Philosophy Workshop*, University of Michigan, April 2023

“Correcting Incoherence”

- *Epistemology Works-in-Progress*, University of Michigan, October 2022
- *Graduate Student Working Group*, University of Michigan, October 2022

“Professionalization as Domination: A Relational Egalitarian Critique of Human Rights Advocacy,” *MANCEPT: Recasting Human Rights Without a Shadow*, Manchester Center for Political Theory, September 2022*

“Epistemic Justice and Restorative Justice,” *MIT-Michigan Social Philosophy Workshop*, MIT, April 2022*

“Ignorance and Dissent”

- *Graduate Student Working Group*, University of Michigan, April 2022
- *Ethics and Applied Philosophy*, U. of N. Carolina - Charlotte, April 2022*

“Qualitative and Quantitative Methods in Environmental Justice,” *Advanced Human Rights Advocacy*, Wesleyan University, April 2022†

“Human Rights: Advocacy and Narrative,” *Advanced Human Rights Advocacy*, Wesleyan University, March 2022†

Comments

Alex Guerrero, “The Ethics and Epistemology of Radical Political Change,” *Spring Colloquium on Political Epistemology: Knowledge, Information, and Society*, University of Michigan, March 2022

Jessie Munton, “Salience and Ignorance,” *Spring Colloquium on Salience and its Consequences*, University of Michigan, March 2023

Zoë Johnson King, Title TBD, *Stanford Metaethics and Ancient Philosophy Conference*, Stanford, Feb 2024

Teaching

As Graduate Student Instructor at the University of Michigan
PHIL359: *Law and Philosophy* (Ishani Maitra) Fall 2022
PHIL305: *Introduction to Formal Methods* (Jamie Tappenden) Winter 2023

As Guest Instructor at Wesleyan University and Amherst College
Guest lectures on fact-finding and human rights advocacy

As Teaching Assistant at Stanford Law School
LawGen115N: *Human Rights Advocacy* (James Cavallaro) 2015-2016
LawGen115N: *Human Rights Advocacy* (James Cavallaro) 2017-2018

Work experience

Environmental Protection Agency (OECA) Washington, D.C.
NETI Law Clerk Honors Program June 2024 – Aug. 2024

University Network for Human Rights Middletown, CT
Research Officer Oct. 2019 – Sept. 2021

- Assisted in the design and execution of human rights projects, including:
 - Fighting corporate abuse in Black Louisianian communities;
 - Documenting racial disparities in environmental quality;
 - Developing plans for prison divestment in Connecticut;
 - Analyzing international norms for climate change-induced migrants.
- Fostered partnerships with INGOs and human rights defenders.
- Led development and long-term strategy efforts.

European Council on Foreign Relations Berlin, Germany
Policy Intern June 2018 – Sept. 2018

- Assisted in research related to tech policy and human rights in the EU.

European Parliament Brussels, Belgium
Policy Intern June 2016 – July 2017

- Assisted policy advisors in Human Rights and Civil Liberties.

Policy publications

Petersen, Nagra, and Lurie, “They Didn’t Pay Us for Our Memories: Environmental Racism, Forced Displacement, and the Industrial Buyout of Mossville, Louisiana,” University Network for Human Rights. Nov. 2021.

- Selected media coverage:
 - [The Guardian](#), November 2021
 - [The Advocate](#), November 2021
 - [ProPublica](#), November 2021
 - [The New Yorker](#), December 2021
 - [Vice](#), April 2022

Petersen, Cavallaro, and Clark, “Connecticut at the Crossroads: COVID-19 and the Path to Decarceration,” University Network for Human Rights. Jan 2021.

Service + Pro Bono

Minorities and Philosophy (MAP) International

International Organizer, '22-'24

At Stanford Law School

Pro Bono

Member, [Environmental Law Pro Bono Project](#), '23-24

Member, [Election Law Pro Bono Project](#), '23-24

Service Organizations

Board Member, [OutLaw](#)

At the University of Michigan

Conferences

Co-organizer: [Spring Colloquium: Political Epistemology](#), April '22

Co-organizer: [Spring Colloquium: Salience and its Consequences](#), March '23

Reading Groups

Co-organizer: [Knowledge, Information, and Society Working Group](#), '21-'23

Co-organizer: Epistemology Works-in-Progress, '22-'23

Organizer: Reading group on artificial intelligence and the law, Summer '21

Organizer: Reading group on statistical evidence in epistemology, Summer '22

Organizer: Reading group on the political philosophy of strikes, Summer '23

Other

Research Assistant for Scott Hershovitz, '22-'23

Co-organizer: Ethics Bowl Committee, '22 - '23

Judge: Michigan Ethics Bowl, '23

Co-organizer: [Minorities and Philosophy](#), UM Chapter, '21-'22

Graduate Student Mentor, [COMPASS Workshop](#), '21, '22

Co-Founder, Writing Accountability Group, University of Michigan, '22-23

At Stanford University

Research Assistant for David Plunkett, 2018-2019

National Advisory Board, Haas Center for Public Service, 2018-19

Graduate-level

Coursework

* = audit

M = Michigan

S = Stanford

Value Theory: Ethics, Law, and Politics

The Political Economy of Equality, Elizabeth Anderson (M)

Political Economy and Society: Marx and Smith, Debra Satz (S)*

Moral Rights and Social Norms, Renee Jorgensen (M)

Seminar in Ethics: Vices, Brian Weatherson (M)*

Seminar in Ethics: Moral Psychology, Peter Railton (M)
Love, Life, Death, and the Law, Scott Hershovitz (M)*
Jurisprudence, Scott Hershovitz (M)
Sustainable Development in Rural America, Kim Smith (M)
Globalization and its Discontents, Russell Berman (S)

Logic, Language, Epistemology, and Metaphysics

Groups and Choices, Brian Weatherson (M)
Knowledge and Social Identity, Emmalon Davis (M)
Proseminar: Realism, Laura Ruetsche (M)
Optimistic Metaphysics, Maegan Fairchild (M)
Formal Epistemology, Jim Joyce (M)
Contemporary Debates in Epistemology, Sarah Moss (M)
Evolution of Signaling, Brian Skyrms (S)
Measurement Theory, Ray Briggs (S)
Research Seminar in Logic and Cognition, Thomas Icard (S)*
Logic, Information, and Agency, Johan van Benthem (S)*
First-Person Perspective in Epistemology, Krista Lawlor (S)
The Aim of Belief and Inquiry, Anna-Sara Malmgren (S)

History of Philosophy

Interpreting the *Zhuangzi*, Sonya Özbey (M)
Existentialism, Sarah Buss (M)

Legal Doctrine and Lawyering

Core Doctrine

Civil Procedure, Amalia Kessler (S)
Constitutional Law, Jud Campbell (S)
Contracts, Julian Nyarko (S)
Criminal Law, David Sklansky (S)
Torts, Michelle Mello (S)
Legal Research and Writing, Susan Yorke (S)
Federal Litigation in a Global Context, Seema Patel (S)

Electives

Perspectives on Disaster: Torts and Regulation, Robert Rabin (S)
Policy Lab: Repairing State-Local Relationships, Michelle Anderson (S)
Topics in Election Law, Nathaniel Persily (S)

Summer Schools /
Workshops

NASSLLI 2022, North American Summer School for Logic, Language, and Information, University of Southern California, June 2022

Legitimacy of International Law and International Institutions, Pluri-Courts, University of Oslo, June 2022

International Rationality Summer Institute, Germany, July–August 2022
(accepted with full funding; couldn't attend due to health concerns)

Algorithmic Reparations Workshop, University of Michigan, October 2022

Languages

Natural Languages

English (native), German (professional fluency)

Programming Languages

R (proficient)

Professional
memberships

UConn Human Rights Research Consortium 2019-2021

International working group on interdisciplinary issues in human rights

American Philosophical Association

Other interests

Classical piano, theatre + performance art, and outdoor exploration.