Sean Donahue

The Australian National University
School of Philosophy
Level 6, 146 Ellery Crescent
Canberra 0200 ACT Australia

Sean.Donahue@anu.edu.au
www.seandonahue.org
(+61) 4 9329 6264
US Citizen

Research

Areas of Specialization
Political Philosophy, Epistemology, AI Ethics

Areas of Competence
Ethics, Metaethics, Philosophy of Science, Logic

Employment

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Machine Intelligence and Normative Theory (MINT) Lab, The Australian National University; adv. Seth Lazar
September 2022 - Present

Education

University of Southern California, Los Angeles
Ph.D. Philosophy, May 2022
Dissertation: *Public Justification Beyond Legitimacy*; adv. Jonathan Quong

Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich
M.A. Logic and Philosophy of Science, December 2014

University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh
No Degree, General Studies in Mathematics, May 2011

St. John's College, Annapolis
B.A. Liberal Arts, May 2010

Fellowships, Grants, and Awards

ANU Early Career Researcher Travel Grant, 2023
University-wide competitive grant

USC Graduate School Summer Research and Writing Grant, 2019
University-wide competitive grant

Carl and Carolyn Franklin Fellowship, 2015

Deutschland Stipendium, 2013
Competitive academic stipend for students at German universities

Horatio Alger Scholarship for Students Overcoming Adversity, 2006

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- 'AI Rule and a Fundamental Objection to Epistocracy', *AI & Society*, conditionally accepted.

- 'Collective Procedural Memory', *Philosophical Studies*, 2024. ([LINK](#))

- 'The Dark Knowledge Problem: Why Public Justifications are not Arguments', *Journal of Moral Philosophy*, 2023. ([LINK](#))

- 'Powerful Deceivers and Public Reason Liberalism: An Argument for Externalization', *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, 2021. ([LINK](#))

- 'Public Justification and the Veil of Testimony', *Journal of Political Philosophy*, 2020. ([LINK](#))

- 'Knowledge Exclusion and the Rationality of Belief', *Analysis*, 2019. ([LINK](#))

Invited Contributions to Collected Volumes

- 'Should Platforms be Publicly Owned and Controlled?', *Contemporary Debates in the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence*, eds. John Zerilli, Sven Nyholm, and Atoosa Kasirzadeh. Wiley-Blackwell, under contract.

Book Reviews

- 'What's the Point of Political Philosophy?' Review of Jonathan Floyd, *What's the Point of Political Philosophy? Journal of Moral Philosophy*, 2022.

Public

- 'As Collective Memory Fades, So Will Our Ability to Prepare for the Next Pandemic'
  The Conversation, 2020 • *Over 19,500 views as of April 2024* ([LINK](#))

Presentations

Invited Presentations

Should Platforms be Publicly Owned and Controlled?
  Political Philosophy Work-in-Progress Workshop, ANU, April 2024

Platform Legitimacy Between Rights and Rule
  Legitimacy Beyond the State Workshop, February 2024

AI Rule and a Fundamental Objection to Epistocracy
  International Political Science Association World Congress, July 2023
  Australasian Association of Philosophy Conference, July 2023
  ChatLLM23, April 2023
  ANU Philosophy Department Thursday Seminar, Canberra, July 2023

The Dark Knowledge Problem: Why Public Justifications are Not Arguments
  ANU Job Talk HMI Postdoc, February 2022

Autonomy and Information Overload
American Philosophical Association, Eastern Conference, January 2022
  New Mexico-Texas Philosophical Society, May 2021

Collective Procedural Memory
  Social Ontology, August 2021

The Analytic-Continental Divide: Lessons from Public Reason Liberalism
  CUNY Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, April 2020
  (Cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic)

In Defense of Blame from the Blue
  WMU Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, Kalamazoo, November 2019

Dark Knowledge
  Australian Association of Philosophy Conference, Wollongong, July 2019

Talks
Should Platforms be Publicly Owned and Controlled?
  MINT Lab, Canberra, May 2024

Platform Legitimacy Between Rights and Rule
  MINT Lab, Canberra, November 2023

AI Rule and a Fundamental Objection to Epistocracy
  MINT Lab Presentation, Canberra, April 2023

The Challenge of the Fine-Graindedness of Evidence for the Uniqueness Thesis
  Spec Society, University of Southern California, November 2017

Trick Coins and Doxastic Voluntarism
  Spec Society, University of Southern California, April 2016

Comments
Formal Epistemology Workshop, Seattle, 2017

Teaching

Main Instructor, Australian National University
Philosophy, AI, and Society (Co-instructor) Spring 2024

Machine Intelligence and Normative Theory (Co-instructor) Spring 2023

Main Instructor, University of Southern California
Reasoning and Argument A, (half-semester course) Fall 2018

Reasoning and Argument B, (half-semester course) Fall 2018

Main Instructor, Prison Education Program
Ethics (Session Leader and Co-instructor) Spring 2021

Teaching Assistance, University of Southern California

Philosophy of Law, John Hawthorne, Spring 2022

Contemporary Moral and Social Issues, Zoë Johnson King, Fall 2021

Science, Knowledge, and Objectivity, Porter Willliams, Spring 2021

Philosophy, Politics, and Economics in Europe, from the Renaissance to 1800, Jacob Soll, Fall 2020,

Freedom, Equality, and Social Justice, Jonathan Quong, Fall 2017

Religion, Science, and The Making of the Modern Mind, Zlatan Damnjanovic, Spring 2016

Current Moral and Social Issues, Jacob Ross, Fall 2016

Teaching Assistance, LMU Munich

Central Topics in Philosophy of Science, Stephan Hartman, Winter 2014

Introduction to the Philosophy of Science, Stephan Hartmann, Summer 2014

Introduction to the Philosophy of Science, Stephan Hartmann, Summer 2013

Guest Lecturing

John Hawthorne, *Philosophy of Law*, March 2022.

Zoë Johnson King, *Contemporary Moral and Social Issues*, September 2021.

Pedagogical Training

Future Faculty Teaching Institute, USC, 2020
  Semester long instruction on pedagogy and course design

Teaching Philosophy, USC, Mark Schroeder, 2016
  Half-Semester instruction on general pedagogy

Certification in English Language Teaching to Adults (CELTA), Teaching House Boston, 2012
  Month long intensive on pedagogy and lesson design

Graduate Coursework

Value Theory

Seminar in Philosophy of Law	USC, Jon Quong, Gary Watson, Spring 2017
Seminar in Ethics	USC, Stephen Finlay, Fall 2016
Contemporary Value Theory	USC, Mark Schroeder, Spring 2016
Reasoning	LMU, Stephan Hartmann, Summer 2014
Rationality	LMU, Olivier Roy, Summer 2013
Logic's Role in Thought and Reasoning	LMU, Florian Steinberger, Winter 2012

Epistemology

Plato	USC, Ralph Wedgwood, Fall 201
British Empiricism	USC, James van Cleve, Spring 2016
Seminar in Epistemology	USC, Ralph Wedgwood, Fall 2015
Topics in Epistemology	LMU, Florian Steinberger, Summer 2013

Philosophy of Science

Seminar in the Philosophy of Science	USC, David Wallace, Spring 2017
Central Topics in Philosophy of Science II	LMU, Stephan Hartmann, Winter 2013
Central Topics in Philosophy of Science I	LMU, Stephan Hartmann, Winter 2012

Logic

Intermediate Symbolic Logic	USC, Jeffrey Russell, Fall 2015
Modal Logic	LMU, Norbert Gratzel, Summer 2014
Proof Theory in Philosophy	LMU, Ole Hjortland, Summer 2013
Logic II	LMU, Ole Hjortland, Summer 2013

Philosophy of Logic

Seminar in the Philosophy of Logic	USC, Andrew Bacon, Spring 2016
Central Topics in Philosophical Logic II	LMU, Hannes Leitgeb, Summer 2014
Central Topics in Philosophical Logic I	LMU, Hannes Leitgeb, Summer 2013
Contemporary Philosophy of Logic	LMU, Ole Hjortland, Winter 2012

Language

Contemporary Philosophy of Language	USC, Scott Soames, Fall 2015
Simulations in Philosophy of Language	LMU, Conor Mayo-Wilson, Winter 2013
Contemporary Philosophy of Language	LMU, Florian Steinberger, Winter 2012

Academic Service

Journal Refereeing

Ergo, 2024

ACM Journal on Responsible Computing, 2024 (2x)

Philosophical Quarterly, 2024

Political Philosophy Journal, 2024

Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy, 2024

Philosophical Studies, 2024

Ethics and Information Technology, 2023 (2x)

The Philosophical Forum, 2023

Journal of Political Philosophy, 2021

Pacific Philosophical Quarterly, 2021

Applications for Gathering Philosophers in Southern California, 2019

USC/UCLA Graduate Philosophy Conference, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019

Erkenntniss, 2016

Grant Refereeing

Czech Science Foundation

Administrative

Humanizing Machine Intelligence Institute, ECR Monthly Meetings, ANU, 2024
  Co-Lead Organizer

ECR Representative to the Philosophy Department, ANU, 2024
  Co-Representative

Legitimacy Beyond the State Workshop, 2024
  Lead Organizer with Garrett Cullity

Thursday Seminar Convenor, ANU, 2023
  Over 30 Presentations Organized

Philosophy, AI, and Society Network Annual Workshop, 2023
  Co-Organizer with Linda Eggert and Seth Lazar

Treasurer of Pegasus, 2017-2018
  Pegasus is USC's philosophy graduate student organization

President of Spec Society, 2016-2017
  Spec Society is USC's philosophy graduate student presentation workshop

Memberships

Fellow, Conceptual Foundations of Conflict Project, Fall 2020-Spring 2021.

References

Jon Quong (Dissertation Advisor)
Professor of Philosophy
University of Southern California
quong@usc.edu

Seth Lazar
Associate Professor of Philosophy
Australian National University
seth.lazar@anu.edu.au

Mark Schroeder
Professor of Philosophy
University of Southern California
maschroe@usc.edu

Garrett Cullity
Professor of Philosophy
Australian National University
garrett.cullity@anu.edu.au

Michael Barnes (Teaching)
Assistant Professor of Philosophy
University of Notre Dame
mbarnes9@nd.edu

NOTE: Please request all references via uscphiljobplacement@gmail.com

---

Language Competency

German
Reading: Intermediate   *Speaking*: Beginner   *Writing*: Beginner

French
Reading: Beginner   *Speaking*: None   *Writing*: None

English
Reading: Fluent   *Speaking*: Fluent   *Writing*: Fluent