

# K. Violet McKeon

Ph. D. Candidate, Philosophy  
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## Education

- Ph. D. University of California, Irvine, Philosophy. (Expected June, 2015). Emphasis: Global Environmental Justice. Dissertation: *On Common Ground: What we owe to each other in the global commons.*
- M.A. University of California, Irvine, Philosophy. 2012. Emphasis: ethics, political philosophy, game theory.
- B.A. University of California, San Diego, Philosophy. 2009. Emphasis: philosophy of physics, history and philosophy of science. Minor in environmental studies. Minor in literature: writing.

## Research Interests

- **Areas of Specialty:** Social and Political Philosophy. Ethics and Value Theory. Game-theory and social dynamics. Global justice, esp. environmental justice.
- **Areas of Competence:** History of social contract. Meta-ethics. Naturalistic ethics. Environmental philosophy. Early Modern philosophy 17-18th century. History and philosophy of science, sp. physics. Logic.

## Academic Teaching Experience

### Chapman University – Adjunct Professor

- Symbolic Logic - Sentential Logic, Predicate Logic, Informal Fallacies. Spring, 2015  
Fall, 2014
- Intro to Games & Decision Theory - Decision Theory, Probability, Game Theory, Value Theory. Spring, 2014
- Intro to Ethics - Aristotle, Kant, Mill, Rawls. Spring, 2014

### University of California, Irvine – Graduate Instructor

- History of Modern Philosophy - Scientific revolution from Copernicus to Kant. Women of early modern philosophy. Summer, 2014
- Critical Reading & Rhetoric - Writing composition, Genre conventions, Audience awareness, Rhetorical situation. Spring, 2014  
Winter, 2014  
Fall, 2013

### University of California, Irvine – Teaching Assistant

- Intro to Philosophy - Philosophy of language, Epistemology, Metaphysics, Ethics. Spring, 2013
- Intro to Moral Philosophy - Society and moral outliers; Plato, Rousseau, Kant, Rawls, Scanlon, James. Fall, 2012
- Intro to Ethics - Societal obligations; Plato, Mill, Kant. Spring, 2012
- Intro to Ethics - Moral luck; Aristotle, Epictetus, Strawson, Rawls. Winter, 2012
- Intro to Philosophy - Epistemology, Identity, Freedom, Ethics; Nozick, Russell, Frankfurt, Mill, Kant. Fall, 2011

- Intro to Philosophy - Locke, Nietzsche, Descartes. Spring, 2011
- Intro to Ethics - Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*. Winter, 2011
- Intro to Philosophy - Cosmological argument, Freedom, Ethics, Identity; Hume, Ayer, Mill, Parfit. Fall, 2010

### Professional Development: Teaching

- E398 Rhetoric & Composition, UCI. 10-week pedagogy seminar Fall, 2013
- UCI TA Professional Development Program (TAPDP) September, 2010
- Certified Yoga Teacher, UCSD Recreation. 2-year teacher training. 2008-2010

### Honors and Awards

- UC President's Dissertation Year Fellowship 2014-15
- Melden Fellowship, UCI Philosophy Winter, 2013
- UCI Graduate Division Regents' Fellowship Fall, 2009
- Richard L. & Fern W. Erion and Laidlaw-Erion Scholarship 2008-2009
- UCSD Summer Research Fellowship Summer, 2008
- Ronald E. McNair Scholar 2007-2008

### Presentations

- *Moral Duties in Virtue of our Common Plight*; presented at Global Studies Conference - Surviving the Future: Owning the World or Sharing the Commons, Marymount College June, 2013
- *Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness: Why Prohibition is an Ethical Concern*; presented at Psychedemia, University of Pennsylvania September, 2012
- *Dynamic Payoff Matrices & CPR Management*; presented to the Social Dynamics Interdisciplinary Seminar, School of Social Sciences, UCI March, 2012
- *In Common Fairness*; presented to the Social Dynamics Interdisciplinary Seminar, School of Social Sciences, UCI October, 2011
- *Governing the Commons II - The Atmosphere*; presented to the Social Dynamics Interdisciplinary Seminar, School of Social Sciences, UCI March, 2011
- *Modality*; presented to the Modal Logic seminar in the Department of Logic and Philosophy of Science, UCI June, 2010
- *Governing the Commons*; presented to the Social Dynamics Interdisciplinary Seminar, School of Social Sciences, UCI March, 2010
- *Models of Time, Freedom, and Determinism*; presented at the UCSD Summer Research Symposium - Science & Engineering August, 2008
- *Questions into the Dimensionality of Space: Philosophical Foundations of Theoretical Physics*; presented at the UCSD Faculty Mentor Research Symposium - Science & Engineering May, 2008

## Professional Service and Organizations

- Steering committee, “Perspectives on Gender” Conference, UCI; Interdisciplinary conference 2013-2014
- Commentator for Douglas Portmore’s “reconsidering Singer’s Drowning Child Example”; Ethics in the Public Sphere: Our Duties to Distant Needy Persons, UC San Diego November, 2012
- Founding Member, Hypatia Society, UCI; Promoting and supporting women in academic philosophy.
- Member, MAP: Minorities and Philosophy, UCI Chapter
- Member, American Philosophical Association

## Graduate Course Work

### Value Theory & Political Philosophy

- PHIL 230 Philosophy of Rights (M. Gilbert) Fall 2009
- PHIL 250 Ethics of Self (M. Schwab) Spring 2010
- LPS 230 Naturalizing Morality (P. K. Stanford) Fall 2010
- PHIL 298 Philosophy of Ecology (M. Schwab) Fall 2010
- PHIL 221 Value of Knowledge (S. Bernecker) Spring 2011
- PHIL 298 Global Economic Fairness (A. James) Spring 2011
- PHIL 298 Philosophy of International Law (A. James) Fall 2011
- PHIL 298 Global Justice (A. James) Winter 2012
- PHIL 298 Global Justice (A. James) Spring 2012
- PHIL 201 Disagreement (A. James) Fall 2012
- PHIL 298 Human Rights (A. James) Winter 2013
- PHIL 298 Political Theory & International Relations (A. James) Spring 2013
- PHIL 267 Political Philosophy (R. Arneson, UCSD) Spring 2012

### Logic & Philosophy of Science

- LPS 205A Set Theory (S. Huttegger) Fall 2010
- LPS 205B Metalogic (K. Weimeir) Winter 2011
- LPS 246 Modal Logic (K. Weimeir) Spring 2010
- PHIL 285 Statistical Mechanics (C. Callender, C. Wuthrich) Spring 2008
- LPS 241 Geometry and Spacetime (D. Mallament) Fall 2009 (audit)
- LPS 240 Philosophy of Science (P. K. Stanford) Winter 2010
- LPS 244 Evolutionary Game Theory (S. Huttegger) Winter 2010
- LPS 240 Inheritance in Biology (P. K. Stanford) Spring 2010
- LPS 246 Social Dynamics (B. Skyrms, D. Saari, L. Narens) 09, W’10, W’11, F’11, W’12, W’13, F’13 (audit), W’14 (audit)

## History of Philosophy

- PHIL 201 Augustine (B. Kent) Fall 2009
- PHIL 213 Hume (S. Greenberg) Winter 2010
- PHIL 210 Aristotle's Ethics (C. Perin) Spring 2011
- PHIL 298 Social Contract: Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau (S. Jolley) Fall 2011
- PHIL 216 Nietzsche (M. Schwab) Spring 2013

## References

- Aaron James UCI Philosophy, Dissertation Committee Chair ajjames@uci.edu
- Bryan Skyrms UCI Logic & Philosophy of Science, Dissertation Committee bskyrms@uci.edu
- Jeffrey Helmreich UCI Philosophy, Dissertation Committee Jhelmrei@uci.edu
- Tira Palmquist UCI Composition, Mentor Teacher tpalmqui@uci.edu
- Michael Pace Chapman Philosophy, Department Chair pace@chapman.edu

## Dissertation Project

*“On Common Ground: What we owe to each other in the global commons”*

In my dissertation, I consider moral and political obligations between people who share a common vital resource that is outside the bounds of traditional state governance. I offer a contractualist framework of moral duties that arise when people share a common plight. I investigate the relationships between justice and sovereignty, justice and shared resources, and how these differ from a cosmopolitan ideal. I consider the applications of both natural property rights and utilitarianism to common- or shared-resources, as well as the collective obligations that arise because of them, showing ultimately that neither are preferable to the framework of duties I propose in virtue of the associative relations brought about by a common plight. I also explore the ethics of complicity, and the extent to which our obligations depend on what others are doing or not doing. And finally, I offer an updated treatment of how best to consider obligations to future generations *vis-à-vis* resource management.