

John Lawless
Assistant Professor of Philosophy

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Past Employment

Utica University: Assistant Professor in the Philosophy Department, 2019-2023
Davidson College: Visiting Assistant Professor in the Writing Program, 2017-2019
University of Pittsburgh: Visiting Lecturer in the Philosophy Department, 2016-2017

Education

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

- Ph.D. in Philosophy (August 2016)
Thesis: "A Right to Recognition"
Committee: Gerald Postema (chair), Geoffrey Sayre-McCord, Thomas E. Hill, Jr.,
Bernard R. Boxill, Russ Shafer-Landau
- M.A. in Philosophy, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (2012)
Thesis: "Legal Processes and the Service Conception of Authority"
Committee: Gerald Postema (chair), Geoffrey Sayre-McCord, and Thomas E. Hill, Jr.

Georgetown University

- B.A. in Philosophy and Government (2009)

Area of Specialization

Ethics, Social and Political Philosophy

Areas of Competence

Feminism, Philosophy of Law, Philosophy of Race

Honors, Awards, and Fellowships

Student Government Association Outstanding Faculty Allyship Award (Spring 2021)
Faculty-Student Affairs Partner Award, Utica College (Spring 2020)
UNC Dissertation Completion Fellowship (Fall 2015 & Spring 2016)
Bertha Colton Williams Fellowship (Fall 2014 & Spring 2015)
Horace Williams Fellowship (Fall 2010 & Spring 2011)
Stephen F. McNamee Award (Spring 2009)

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- "[Social Norms and Social Practices](#)" (*Philosophy & Social Criticism*, November 2023)
- "[White Shame, Non-White Citizenship](#)" (*Public Affairs Quarterly*, January 2022)
- "[Against the Managerial State: Preventive Policing as Non-Legal Governance](#)" (*Law and Philosophy*, March 2020)

- [“Gruesome Freedom: The Limits of Non-Constraint”](#) (*Philosophers’ Imprint*, February 2018)
- [“Agency in Social Context”](#) (*Res Philosophica*, November 2017)

Peer-Reviewed Chapters

- [“Violence and the Boundaries of the Community: A Relational Approach to Autonomy”](#) in *Pacifism, Feminism, and Politics*, ed. Jen Kling (March 2019)

Public Writing

- [“What Is Policing For?”](#) in *Blog of the APA* (July 2020)

Selected Recent Presentations

- “Social Norms and Social Practices” at the Binghamton University Philosophy Department (September 2023)
- “Complicity, Membership, Justice: Tadros’ Dilemma for the Rule of Law” at Law’s Rule: A Workshop in Honor of Gerald Postema, hosted by the University of Illinois (September 2023)
- “The Force of Law and the Law of Force” at Hamilton College’s Levitt Public Affairs Center (November 2022)
- “The Socialism of Fools: Populist Antisemitism as White Coalition Politics” at Humanists in Conversation on Conspiracy (April 2022)
- “Precarious Whiteness: Citizenship and Dread in Lovecraft’s Fiction” at the Popular Culture Association’s Annual Meeting (April 2022)
- “Contingent Citizenship and the Boundaries of White Discourse” at State (In)Stability Conference 2021, hosted by Libertas University (November 2021)
- Precarious Citizenship: Fealty and Dependence in the *Herrenvolk* Republic” at MANCEPT Workshop: The Hollow Republic (September 2021)
- “Organizing Resistance: Republican Ideals for Non-Ideal Politics”
 - at the 38th International Social Philosophy Conference (July 2021)
 - at the Great Lakes Philosophy Conference (April 2021)
- “More than a Capacity: Agency, Oppression, and Paternalism”
 - at Human Rights and Human Dignity: Rethinking the Connection (July 2021)
 - at the Workshop on Political Philosophy in Bioethics, hosted by Carnegie Mellon’s Centre for Ethics and Policy (February 2021).
- “White Shame, Non-White Citizenship” at the XI Braga Meetings On Ethics and Political Philosophy (June 2021)
- “Policing the Border: Racial Nativism as an Existential Threat to Law” at the Climate Crisis, Displacement, and Migration Workshop, hosted by Georgetown University’s Philosophy Department (April 2021)
- “Preventive Policing as a Public Expression of Bias” at the PPE Society (March 2019)
- “The Managerial State” at the American Philosophical Association – Central (February 2019)

Teaching Experience

Basic Issues in Philosophy, Illinois State University (Fall 2023)

Philosophy of Law, Illinois State University (Fall 2023)

- Utica College (Fall 2022, Fall 2021, Fall 2020, Fall 2019)

- University of Pittsburgh (Spring 2017)
Philosophy of Gender, Utica College (Spring 2022)
Professional Ethics (Online Course), Utica College (Summer 2022, Spring 2022, Summer 2021, Spring 2021, Winter 2021, Summer 2019)
Ethics, Utica College (Fall 2022, Spring 2022, Fall 2021, Spring 2021, Fall 2020, Spring 2020, Fall 2019)
- African American Political Philosophy, Utica College (Spring 2021, Spring 2020)
 - Davidson College (Spring 2018)
 - UNC-Chapel Hill (Summer 2016)
 Business Ethics, Davidson College (Spring 2019)
 Medical Ethics, Davidson College (Fall 2018, Fall 2017)
 - University of Pittsburgh (Fall 2016)
 Writing in the Humanities, Davidson College (Spring 2019, Fall 2018, Spring 2018, Fall 2017)
 Political Philosophy, University of Pittsburgh (Spring 2017)
 Great Works, UNC-Chapel Hill (Summer 2015)
 Ethics of Peace, War, and Defense, UNC-Chapel Hill (Summer 2014)
 Ethics and Economics, UNC-Chapel Hill (Spring 2014)
 Philosophical Issues of Gender in Society, UNC-Chapel Hill (Fall 2013)
 Morality and Law, UNC-Chapel Hill (Summer 2013)
 Bioethics ([online course](#)), UNC-Chapel Hill (Spring 2013)
 Philosophy of Religion, UNC-Chapel Hill (Summer 2012, Fall 2012)

Professional Activities & Services

Vice President, Creighton Club (Since Fall 2023)
 Philosophy Department Colloquium Committee (Since Fall 2023)
 Secretary and Treasurer, Creighton Club (Spring 2022-Fall 2023)
 Academic Assessment Committee, Utica College (Fall 2020-Spring 2023)
 Joint Conference Committee, Utica College (2020-2022)
 SafeZone Initiative Curriculum Committee, Utica College (2020)
 Co-Organizer, Visitors' Conference in Philosophy at the University of Pittsburgh (2017)
 Outreach Program, UNC Department of Philosophy (2010-2016)
 Hiring Committee, Graduate Student Representative (2014-15)
 Graduate Student Teaching Coordinator, UNC Department of Philosophy (2013-2014)
 UNC Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Undergraduate Reading Group Coordinator (2012-2014)
 Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Club Advisor, UNC (2011-2013)
 Graduate Student Pre-Law Adviser, UNC Department of Philosophy (2011-2013)
 Speakers Committee, UNC Department of Philosophy (2010-2012)