

SEAN WHITTON

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AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Ethics
Virtue theory

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

History of ethics
Political philosophy
Logic and advanced logic
Philosophy of mathematics

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Philosophy, University of Arizona (expected 2023)

Dissertation *Purely Dynamic Eudaimonism*

Committee Julia Annas (supervisor), Houston Smit, Mark Timmons

Summary I develop and defend a eudaimonist virtue ethics, both against other approaches in ethics and against other kinds of virtue ethics. Eudaimonism is characterised by the ideas that only living virtuously is unconditionally good, that other things are good only relative to living virtuously, and that it is a mistake to sharply distinguish living well, living ethically and living happily. I first develop an account of what's common to all eudaimonisms, called *minimal eudaimonism*. I then consider what more should be said beyond the core of claims to which all forms of eudaimonism are committed. I defend *purely dynamic eudaimonism* (PDE) against other eudaimonisms and against non-eudaimonist conceptions of the final end for our practical reasoning. PDE is different from other eudaimonisms in holding that happiness is virtuous activity alone, that virtue is not perfectible, and that to exercise virtue is always further to develop it. These theses distinguish PDE from archetypal Aristotelian conceptions of virtue and happiness, and each has significant normative implications, which I explore.

MMathPhil, Mathematics and Philosophy, University of Oxford (2013)

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Humane Studies Fellowships, Summer 2020 & academic year 2021–2022

PUBLICATIONS

“In Defense of a Narrow Drawing of the Boundaries of the Self”. 2021. *Journal of Value Inquiry* 55: 669–684.
doi:10.1007/s10790-020-09761-2

PRESENTATIONS

“Just how can good circumstances contribute to happiness?”, FC talks series, Center for the Philosophy of Freedom, University of Arizona, July 5, 2022.

WORK IN PROGRESS

“What’s different about the executive virtues?” (under review)

“Just how can good circumstances contribute to happiness?” (under review)

“Who’s afraid of eudaimonia?” (in progress)

“Is Susan Wolf’s philosophy of happiness a compelling alternative to eudaimonism?” (in progress)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Arizona

Instructor

Why are we here? Fundamental questions about the ethical organization of society, Spring 2022
Introduction to political philosophy from early modern thinkers Hobbes and Locke through Smith, Marx, Rawls, and contemporary work

Who am I? People and our place in the universe, Fall 2020

Introduction to philosophy in four units: knowledge and scepticism (Descartes' *Meditations*); personhood; virtue (Plato's *Gorgias*); and politics (Hobbes and Locke)

Business Ethics, Summer 2018 and Summer 2019

Introduction to philosophical thinking about ethics for business students

The Ethics and Economics of Wealth Creation, Summer 2016 and Summer 2017

Introduction to political economy and moral science for undergraduates majoring in philosophy, economics and public administration

Teaching Assistant

Justice and Virtue, Spring 2016 (Michael Gill); Fall 2018, Spring 2019 (Houston Smit)

Philosophical Perspectives on Society, Fall 2016 (Thomas Christiano); Spring 2017 (Michael Gill)

The Philosophy of Happiness, Fall 2017 (Daniel Russell)

The Ethics and Economics of Wealth Creation, Spring 2018 (Jonny Anomaly)

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

PPEL summer school co-ordinator, Spring 2023 (Center for the Philosophy of Freedom)

Public Discussion Forum program assistant, Spring 2023 (Center for the Philosophy of Freedom)

Editorial assistant, *Oxford Studies in Political Philosophy*, Spring 2020, Fall 2021 & Fall 2022 (Steven Wall)

Newsletter, annual report and website assistant, Spring 2021 (Center for the Philosophy of Freedom)

GRADUATE COURSEWORK

Ethics and virtue theory

Virtue ethics (independent study, Julia Annas)

The virtuous agent's reasons (independent study, Julia Annas)

Normativity seminar (Connie Rosati)

Virtue ethics seminar (Julia Annas) (audit)

Virtue theory seminar (Daniel Russell) (audit)

Moral emotions seminar (Mark Timmons and Michael McKenna) (audit)

History of ethics

Kant's ethics (Mark Timmons)

The *Nicomachean Ethics* (Rachana Kamtekar)

Socrates and Euripides (Rachana Kamtekar)

Hume's ethics (Michael Gill) (audit)

History of philosophy

Ancient philosophy of religion (Julia Annas) (audit)

Plato (Julia Annas) (audit)

Political philosophy

Public reason and its critics (Gerald Gaus and Steven Wall)
Fairness in economic exchange (Thomas Christiano)
Seminar on complexity theory (Gerald Gaus and Jenann Ismael)
Ancient political philosophy seminar (Julia Annas) (audit)

Logic and science

Advanced symbolic logic (Jason Turner)
Philosophy of the physical sciences (Jenann Ismael)
The philosophy of space and time (Richard Healey)
The philosophy of quantum mechanics (Richard Healey and Jenann Ismael)

East Asian studies

Haruki Murakami and the literature of modern Japan (J. Philip Gabriel)
Seminar on modern Japanese literature (J. Philip Gabriel) (audit)

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Philosophical Association

REFERENCES

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Please contact Sandra Kimball <skimball@arizona.edu>, the Arizona philosophy department's program coordinator, for electronic copies of letters of reference.