

AUSTEN MCDOUGAL

WWW.AUSTENMCDOUGAL.COM

Email: austendm@stanford.edu
Stanford Department of Philosophy
Building 90, Main Quad
Stanford, CA 94305

RESEARCH AREAS

Specialization: Normative Ethics; Moral Psychology

Competence: Latin American Philosophy; Philosophy of Law; Philosophy of Religion;
Metaethics

EDUCATION

PhD Stanford University, Philosophy Expected 2023
Dissertation: A Motive-Based Approach to Ethics
Committee: Leif Wenar (co-chair); Barry Maguire (co-chair); Chris Bobonich;
Jorah Dannenberg
Second-Year Qualifying Paper: Two Spheres of Normativity

BA Princeton University, Philosophy 2016
Graduated with Highest Honors
Class of 1869 Prize for the best thesis in ethics (advised by Gideon Rosen)
Certificate in Computer Science

FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORS

External

LATAM Free Will Project Summer Seminar on Moral Responsibility //
Universidad de los Andes 2021

Stanford

APA Graduate Student Stipend (canceled due to COVID-19) 2020

EDGE Fellow 2016-18
Program for Enhancing Diversity in Graduate Education

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

“Models of Control over Motives”
Society for Philosophy and Psychology // Princeton University (online) 2021

“Squeezing God into Fitting-Response Accounts of Value” Princeton-Rutgers Philosophy of Religion Incubator Conference // Princeton University (online)	2021
“Against Motive Fatalism” Great Lakes Philosophy Conference // Siena Heights University (online) Early Career Workshop for Theistic Philosophers // Bowling Green State University (online)	2021 2021
“In Defense of Motive-cum-Act Utilitarianism” APA Pacific (canceled due to COVID-19) // San Francisco, CA Stanford Graduate Student Workshop // Stanford University	2020 2020
“Amnesia and the Justification of Punishment” Issues in Philosophy of Memory // Université Grenoble Alpes	2019
“Moral Schizophrenia and Action-Guidance” Stanford Moral Philosophy Reading Group // Stanford University	2018
“Two Spheres of Normativity” Stanford Graduate Student Workshop // Stanford University	2018

COMMENTS

Paul Bowman, “The Relevance of Motivations to Wrongdoing for Contributing to Climate Change” Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress	2020
--	------

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Stanford University, primary instructor

PHIL 24M: Latin American Philosophy	2021
-------------------------------------	------

Hope House (substance abuse treatment program), primary instructor

Philosophy of Love and Care (co-taught with Hannah Kim)	2019
---	------

Stanford University, teaching assistant

Stanford Humanities Summer Institute (program for pre-collegiate students): The Art of Living (Ken Taylor)	2019
PHIL 60: Introduction to Philosophy of Science (Helen Longino)	2019
PHIL 189G: Fine-Tuning Arguments (Nadeem Hussain)	2019
PHIL 170: Ethical Theory (Jorah Dannenberg)	2018
PHIL 1: Introduction to Philosophy (Nadeem Hussain)	2018

PHIL 194M: Consequences for Ethics (Barry Maguire) 2017

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

External

Journal referee 2019-
Ratio
Erkenntnis
Synthese

Conference referee 2018-
Berkeley-Stanford-Davis Graduate Conference

Stanford

Organizer for Philosophy of Religion Reading Group 2021-

Social Chair for Hume Society 2018-19

Philosophy Graduate Student Representative (liaison with faculty) 2017-18

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Stanford EDGE Mentor 2019-2020
Program for Enhancing Diversity in Graduate Education

Stanford Ng House Humanities Workshops 2018-2020
Facilitator for residential undergrad courses, including: C.S. Lewis and Tea; Diplomacy;
Critical Themes in Opera; Dungeons and Dragons; The Beautiful Game; Critically
Listening to Rap; Ukulele Communism; Injustices of the Supreme Court; Philosophy of
Law

Stanford InterVarsity Graduate Christian Fellowship 2017-
Leader for: Corinthians discussion group; social justice discussion group
Organizer for Veritas Forum panels with invited faculty

Grace Presbyterian Church of Silicon Valley 2017-
Member; children's ministry volunteer

Stanford MELODY Outreach Program 2018-19
Volunteer piano instructor

LANGUAGES

Spanish

Strong proficiency, written and oral

German

Limited proficiency, written

REFERENCES

Available on request

DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

In my dissertation, I emphasize the intrinsic significance of an agent's motives. But unlike virtue ethics, which seeks to replace rule-based and consequence-based approaches to ethics, I favor a motive-based approach that complements (rather than competes with) existing rule- and consequence-based approaches. This dualism of approaches at once reframes and illuminates several longstanding issues in ethics, such as: how it is that ethics asks so much of deeply deficient humans (the problem of *'ought' implies 'can'*); how ethics is to go past the theoretical and guide us in practical ways (the problem of *action-guidance*); and how ethical guidance is to take place without taking over our personal relationships, making us detached and alienated (the problem of *moral schizophrenia*).