

Stephen E. Ellis

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Philosophy, Rutgers University, 2001

Dissertation: "Multiple Objectives: Commensurability, Calibration, and Decision"

M.A. Philosophy (Honors), University of Kansas, 1992

B.A. Philosophy & Political Science, University of Kansas, 1987

AREAS OF INTEREST

Research Areas: Decision Theory, Philosophy of Economics, Philosophy of Social Science

Additional Competence: Ethics, Local Economic Development; Philosophy of Race

INTELLECTUAL CONTRIBUTIONS: PUBLISHED OR ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION

"Economic Development Incentives and Income Inequality" (with J. Wang and C. Rogers) Review of Regional Studies, 48:1 (Spring 2018): 93-117.

"The Anthropocene Biosphere: Supporting 'Open Interdisciplinarity' through Blogging," (with Z. Trachtenberg, T. Burns, K. de Beurs, K. Gates, B. Hoagland, J. Kelly, T. Neeson, A. Randall, I. Schlupp, P. Soppelsa, G. Soreghan, and J. Zeigler) Trends in Ecology and Evolution 32:1 (January 2017): 1-3.

"Reading Post on 'Valuation in the Anthropocene: Exploring options for alternative operations of the Glen Canyon Dam'," solicited blog post, Inhabiting the Anthropocene (January 11, 2017) <https://inhabitingtheanthropocene.com/2017/01/11/valuation-in-the-anthropocene-exploring-options-for-alternative-operations-of-the-glen-canyon-dam/>

"Paper Trail," an Educational Game developed with the K20 Center at the University of Oklahoma. (September 2016) Available on request from the K20 Center: <https://k20center.ou.edu/games/papertrail/>

"Culture as Climate," solicited blog post, Inhabiting the Anthropocene (April 6, 2016) <https://inhabitingtheanthropocene.com/2016/04/06/culture-as-climate/>

"Cultural Dynamics: An Inside Job," solicited blog post, Inhabiting the Anthropocene (March 17, 2016) <https://inhabitingtheanthropocene.com/2016/03/17/cultural-dynamics-an-inside-job/>

- “Accountability for Economic Development Incentives: The Case for a Procedural Duty of Care,” (with G. Hayden and C. Rogers) Arizona Law Review 56:4 (Winter 2014): 953-976
- “Economic Development Incentives: Traps and Accountability,” (with C. Rogers and G. Hayden) in Regional Economic Development Compared: EU-Europe and the American South, ed. G. Bischof, Innsbruck UP: Innsbruck, Austria. 2014.
- “Best Practices for Fostering Diversity in Tenure-Track Searches,” (with A. Olberding and S. Irvin) APA Newsletter 13:2 (Spring 2014): 27-36.
- “Rationality and Social Explanation” in Encyclopedia of Philosophy and the Social Sciences, ed. B. Kaldis, SAGE Publications: Thousand Oaks, CA. 2013.
- “Pareto Optimality” in Encyclopedia of Philosophy and the Social Sciences, ed. B. Kaldis, SAGE Publications: Thousand Oaks, CA. 2013.
- “Review: Eric MacGilvray, The Invention of Market Freedom,” Review of Politics 74:4 (December 2012): 694-697
- “The Cult of Efficiency in Corporate Law,” (with G. Hayden), Virginia Law and Business Review 5:2 (Fall 2010): 239-265.
- “Market Hegemony and Economic Theory,” Philosophy of the Social Sciences 28:4 (December 2008): 513-532.
- “The Varieties of Instrumental Rationality” Southern Journal of Philosophy 46:2 (2008): 199-220.
- “The Main Argument for Value Incommensurability (and Why It Fails)” Southern Journal of Philosophy 46:1 (2008): 27-43.
- “Theory” (with F. C. Swoyer), International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences, 2nd Edition, vol. 9, ed. William A. Darity, Jr., Gale Group, 2008.
- “Law and Economics After Behavioral Economics” (with G. Hayden), University of Kansas Law Review, 55:3 (April 2007): 629-675.
- “Multiple Objectives: A Neglected Problem in the Theory of Human Action,” Synthese 153:2 (November 2006): 313-338.
- “Rational Decision,” (with F. C. Swoyer), Dictionary of the History of Ideas, vol. 5, ed. Maryanne Horowitz, Charles Scribner’s Sons, 2004/5.
- “What Economists (and Everyone Else) Should Think About Utility Theory,” Southwest Philosophy Review 18:1 (January 2002): 95-104.
- “Local Economic Development as a Game: The Role of Business Climate,” (with C. Rogers) Review of Regional Studies 30:3 (Winter 2000): 315-330.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Making Sense, book project with Guy Crain

Free markets: From Ideology to Tool, book project

“The Norm of Hijab in the Time of Martyrdom” (with A. Sophiamehr)

“Neither God nor Cog: Ethics for the Situated Bureaucrat” (with T. Richardson)

PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

“Tax Increment Finance (TIF) and School Funding” (with C. Rogers) Education Funding Summit, Norman, OK, March 9, 2019

“Economic Development Incentives and Income Inequality” (with J. Wang and C. Rogers) Annual Meeting of the Southern Regional Science Association, Memphis, TN, March 31, 2017.

“The Catholic View of Property Rights: A Hard Teaching?” St. Thomas More Church, Norman, OK, September 7, 2016.

“Anthropocene Biosphere: Panel Discussion with Erle Ellis (U Maryland) and OU Faculty,” OU Humanities Forum, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK, April 14, 2016.

“Professional Integrity,” Council for Academic Integrity, OU Health Sciences Center, Oklahoma City, OK, March 28, 2016.

“Thinking About Ethical Issues,” Four Star Leadership Camp, General Tommy Franks Leadership Institute, Oklahoma Christian University, Edmond, OK, July 17, 2015

“Chinatown on the Canadian: Who Gets Norman’s Water and Who Pays?” Cleveland County Democratic Party, Cornbread and Beans lunch series, Norman, OK, May 15, 2015

“The Role of Integrity in Ethics,” Council for Academic Integrity, OU Health Sciences Center, Oklahoma City, OK, March 30, 2015

“Police Brutality: A Discussion,” Informed Citizen Discussion Group (OU Student Organization), Norman, OK, March 26, 2015

“Ethics on Trial,” Program and Panel Discussion, Oklahoma Business Ethics Consortium monthly meeting, Tulsa, OK, March 26, 2015.

“Chinatown on the Canadian: Who Gets Norman’s Water and Who Pays?” invited public talk, OU Bizzell Library, February 25, 2015

“Ethics on Trial,” Program and Panel Discussion, Oklahoma Business Ethics Consortium monthly meeting, Oklahoma City, OK, January 14, 2015.

“Student Engagement,” Oklahoma Business Ethics Consortium, Oklahoma State Education Summit, Oklahoma Christian University, Edmond, OK, August 14, 2014

“Economic Development Incentives: Traps and Accountability,” Austrian Marshall Plan Foundation and CenterAustria (UNO) Conference on Regional Economic Development: The European Union and the American South Compared, University of New Orleans, New Orleans, LA, October 21, 2013.

“Is Getting What You Want Good For You?” OU Honors Student Association Presentation, Norman, OK, September 30, 2013.

“What the University of Oklahoma is Doing About Diversity,” Diversity in Philosophy Conference, University of Dayton, Dayton, OH, May 31, 2013.

“Officials & Due Diligence: Ethics & Law in Local Economic Development Policy,” Annual Meeting of the Southern Regional Science Association, Washington, D.C., April 5, 2013.

“Philosophy and Economic Practice,” Policy Forum VII: The Philosophy and Practice of Economic Policy in Oklahoma, Cameron University, Lawton, OK, March 8, 2013.

“Stewardship, Solidarity, and Subsidiarity: Catholic Social Thought and What You Should Do About the Environment,” St. Thomas More Church, Norman, OK, November 7, 2012.

“Sprawl and the Business of Being Norman,” Sierra Club, Norman, OK, October 30, 2012.

“Winning Strategies: An Educator’s Insights,” Oklahoma Business Ethics Foundation: Statewide Educators Ethics Symposium, Southern Nazarene University, Bethany, OK, September 5, 2012.

Presentation on accountability and non-pecuniary value at the NEDA [Norman Economic Development Authority] Public Forum, Norman, OK, May 29, 2012.

“Corporate Law: A House Built on Sand?” Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, May 31, 2009.

“Market Hegemony and Economic Theory,” Realistic Standards for Decisions Conference (NSF funded), University of Missouri-Columbia, April 25-26, 2008.

“Climate Change as an Externality: Why DON'T We Stop Ourselves from Doing This, Anyway?” (with S. Greene), part of the Focus the Nation initiative on climate change, University of Oklahoma, February 1, 2008.

Invited Participant, National Science Foundation Workshop on Predictive Modeling in Engineering, Texas A&M University, May 21-23, 2007.

“The Many and the One: Sen and Hausman on Preferences,” Philosophy Colloquium, University of Oklahoma, September 22, 2006.

“Comments on Gopal Sreenivasan’s ‘Disunity of Virtue’,” Virtue Ethics and Moral Psychology

Conference, Denver, CO, October 8, 2005.

“Beyond Tinkering: A New Direction for Behavioral Economics” (with G. Hayden), Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, NV, June 4, 2005.

“Market Hegemony and Economic Theory,” Philosophy Colloquium, University of Oklahoma, March 11, 2005.

“The Main Argument for Value Incommensurability (and Why It Fails),” Values, Rational Choice, and the Will: A Special Conference on Values, Stevens Point, WI, April 3, 2004.

“A Neglected Problem in the Theory of Human Action,” Behavioral Research Council, Symposium on the Foundations of the Behavioral Sciences, Great Barrington, MA, July 21, 2002.

“Economics and Ethics,” St. Charles Borromeo Church, Oklahoma City, OK, April 16, 2002.

“What Economists (and Everyone Else) Should Think About Utility Theory,” Southwestern Philosophical Society, Dallas, TX, Nov. 3, 2001.

“The Varieties of Instrumental Rationality,” Philosophy Colloquium, University of Oklahoma, Sept. 21, 2001.

TEACHING

Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Oklahoma (2010-present)

Current Ph.D. Committees: Ziming Song (Philosophy, chair)
 Zachary Jurgensen (Philosophy, defended May 2018)
 Daniel Cheon (Philosophy)
 Casey Stull (Philosophy)
 Cheryl Frazier (Philosophy)
 Jeremy Fried (Philosophy)
 Cory Wilson (Mathematics)

Contemporary Philosophy: The White Racial Frame (graduate)
Contemporary Philosophy: Social Norms (graduate)
Contemporary Philosophy: Philosophy of Economics (graduate)
Philosophy of Social Science (graduate)
Ethics and Business (junior/senior)
Introduction to Business Ethics (first year; large lecture)
Introduction to Philosophy (first year)

Visiting Professor, Higher National Diploma program, Nanjing University, (Summer 2016)

Introduction to Business Ethics (first year)

Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Oklahoma (2003-2010)

Contemporary Philosophy: Philosophical Issues in Game Theory (graduate)
Philosophy of Social Science (graduate)
Ethics and Business (junior/senior)
Reasoning, Judgment, and Decision Making (junior/senior)
Environmental Ethics (junior/senior)
Introduction to Philosophy (first year)

Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Oklahoma (2001-2003)

Contemporary Philosophy: Philosophical Issues in Decision Theory (graduate)
Philosophy of Social Science (graduate)
Ethics and Business (junior/senior)
Introduction to Philosophy (first year)
Introduction to Ethics (first year)

Instructor, Department of Philosophy, University of Oklahoma (1999-2001)

Introduction to Philosophy (first year)
Critical Reasoning (first year)
Introduction to Ethics (first year)
Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Environment (first year)

Instructor, Department of Economics, University of Oklahoma (1997, 1999-2000)

Intermediate Price Theory (junior/senior)

Instructor, Department of Philosophy, West Virginia University (1997)

Introduction to Symbolic Logic (first year)

Graduate Instructor, Department of Philosophy, Rutgers University (1994-1995)

Current Moral and Social Problems (first year)

Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, University of Pittsburgh (1992)

Introduction to Macroeconomics (first year)
Introduction to Microeconomics (first year)

Graduate Instructor, Department of Philosophy, University of Kansas (1988-1991)

Introduction to Ethics (first year)
Introduction to Logic (first year)
Introduction to Philosophy (first year)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE

American Philosophical Association Committee on the Status of Women Site Visitor

(2013-present)

Participant, National Science Foundation Proposal “IGERT – Bioreactor Design for the Study of Complex Ecosystems” (NSF Proposal 0801686)

Book Manuscript Reviewer for Routledge Press

Reviewer for Ethics, Journal of Economic Methodology, Journal of Moral Philosophy, and Philosophy of the Social Sciences

Proposal Reviewer for Michigan State University’s Community Vitality Program

UNIVERSITY ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE

Elite Retention Squad, a Provost’s Committee for championing student success in large classes, (2014-present)

Academic Integrity Programs Hearing Board Member, (2012-present)

Academic Appeals Board Member, University of Oklahoma (2005-2011; 2012-present)

OU Advisory Committee for the Oklahoma Scholar-Leadership Enrichment Program (2013-2018)

Graduate Liaison, University of Oklahoma Philosophy Department (2012-2018)

Advisor and Coach for the OU Ethics Bowl Team (2010-2018)

Graduate Committee Co-Chair, University of Oklahoma Philosophy Department (2012-2018)

Recruitment and Diversity Committee, University of Oklahoma Philosophy Department (2012-2018)

“Where Do We Go From Here?” Election Night Roundtable, University of Oklahoma (Nov. 8, 2016)

Faculty Roundtable, “The Virtue of Civility” (March 7, 2016)

McNair Scholars Program Mentor for Tyler Tennett (2014-2015)

College of Arts and Sciences Leadership Scholars Mentor (2013-2015)

“The Human Element: Behavioral Decision Making” Guest Lectures for Earth, Sustainability, and the Economy course, University of Oklahoma Geography Department (2012-present)

Evaluator for College of Arts and Sciences Berlin Scholarship (2013-2014)

Committee A, University of Oklahoma Philosophy Department (2012-2014)

“Rethinking Recruitment for Diversity,” presentation at the OU School of Library and Information Sciences faculty retreat, Norman, OK, August 16, 2013.

Campus Disciplinary Council Member (2010-2011)

Search Committee Member – Ethics Position (2010-2011)

Research Liaison, University of Oklahoma Philosophy Department (2010-2011)

Assessment Liaison (undergraduate and graduate), University of Oklahoma Philosophy Department (2004-2011)

Undergraduate Advisor, University of Oklahoma Philosophy Department (2003-2011)

Undergraduate Studies Committee Member, University of Oklahoma Philosophy Department (2003-2011)

“Darwin Across the Disciplines: A Philosopher’s Perspective,” presentation for the Darwin Across the Disciplines program, sponsored by the OU Honors College, Feb. 13, 2009.

Fulbright Interview Panelist, University of Oklahoma (2008)

“Ethics for Engineers,” Guest Lectures for Process Dynamics and Controls course, University of Oklahoma Chemical Engineering Department (2006-2009)

Guest Lectures, Game Theory course, University of Oklahoma Economics Department (2007)

Adopt-a-faculty program (2003-2006)

“Ethics for Engineers” Guest Lecture, Introduction to Engineering course, University of Oklahoma College of Engineering (2003)

“Greed,” Guest Lecture, Inter-Area Seminar, University of Oklahoma College of Liberal Studies (2003)

“Capitalism, Greed, and Human Nature,” Faculty in Residence Lecture (with C. Rogers), University of Oklahoma (2002)

“Marketing Strategies for the 21st Century,” Faculty in Residence Lecture (with C. Rogers), University of Oklahoma (1999)

“Altruism in an It's-all-about-me Society,” Faculty in Residence Lecture (with C. Rogers), University of Oklahoma (1999)

“Right to Work Laws,” Debate (with W. R. Reed), University of Oklahoma Economics Department (2000)

“Greed: Is it Bad?” Debate (with W. R. Reed), University of Oklahoma Economics Department (1999)

Organizing Committee, Rutgers Graduate Student Philosophy Conference (1995)

Co-President, Rutgers Graduate Philosophy Association (1994-1995)

Director of Student Colloquium Series, Rutgers Graduate Philosophy Association (1993-1994)

President, Graduate Association of Students in Philosophy, University of Kansas (1989-1990)

AWARDS

2017 Bronze Medal, International Serious Play Awards. (For the game “Paper Trail” that I developed with
OU’s K20 Center.)

2015 Merrick Foundation Teaching Award (given annually to the faculty member who is considered most outstanding in bringing to students a better understanding and appreciation of the economic and political basis of American society)

Apex Award, 2012 (given annually to a faculty or staff member that goes above and beyond in assisting The Integrity Council in its mission to promote academic integrity at the University of Oklahoma)

Best Paper by a Recent Ph.D, Southwestern Philosophical Society (2001)

University Excellence Fellowship, Rutgers University (1992-1994, 1995-1996)

Scaife Family Foundation Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh Department of Economics (1990-1991)