Jacob Barrett

Department of Philosophy
Vanderbilt University
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Areas of Specialization

Social and Political Philosophy
Normative Ethics
Philosophy, Politics, and Economics ("PPE")

Areas of Competence

Applied Ethics
History of Moral and Political Philosophy
Philosophy of Law

Employment

Vanderbilt University

Assistant Professor of Philosophy (2023 -)
Assistant Professor of Political Science (Secondary) (2023 -)

University of Oxford

Senior Research Fellow in Philosophy, Global Priorities Institute (2021 - 2023)
Non-Stipendiary Research Fellow in Politics, Nuffield College (2020 - 2023)
Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Philosophy, Global Priorities Institute (2020 - 2021)

Education

Ph.D., Philosophy, University of Arizona (2020)
Dissertation: Social Ideals and Social Reform (chaired by Gerald Gaus)
B.A. (Honours), with Distinction, Philosophy, Queen's University (2013)

Publications

Book

2026. *Ideal and Non-Ideal Theory*. Cambridge Elements in Political Philosophy. Cambridge University.

Edited Volume

2025. *Essays on Longtermism: Present Action for the Distant Future* (w/ Hilary Greaves and David Thorstad). Oxford University Press.

Journal Articles

forth. In Defense of Moderation. *Philosophical Studies*.
forth. Philanthropy for the Disenfranchised. *Philosophy & Public Affairs*.
2025. Social Beneficence. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 111: 773-795.
2025. What Can We Learn from the Diversity Trumps Ability Theorem? *Political Philosophy* 2: 544-574.
2025. A Simple Solution to the Scope Problem. *Ergo* 12: 460-474.
2024. Moral Uncertainty and Public Justification (w/ Andreas T. Schmidt). *Philosophers' Imprint* 24: 1-19.
2023. Deviating from the Ideal. *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 107: 31-52.
2023. Ethical Veganism and Free Riding (w/ Sarah Raskoff). *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy* 24: 184-212.
2023. Social Experimentation in an Unjust World (w/ Allen Buchanan). *Oxford Studies in Political Philosophy* 9: 127-152.
2022. Ideology Critique and Game Theory. *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* 52: 714-728.

2022. Subjectivism and Degrees of Well-Being. *Utilitas* 34: 97-104. (Reply)
2020. Optimism about Moral Responsibility. *Philosophers' Imprint* 20: 1-17.
2020. Efficient Inequalities. *Journal of Political Philosophy* 28: 181-198.
2020. Punishment and Disagreement in the State of Nature. *Economics and Philosophy* 36: 334-354.
2020. Social Reform in a Complex World. *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy* 17: 103-132.
2020. Is Maximin Egalitarian? *Synthese* 197: 817-837.
2019. Interpersonal Comparisons with Preferences and Desires. *Politics, Philosophy & Economics* 18: 219-241.

Book Chapters

forth. Desire, Aversion, and Preference. In A. Gregory (Ed.), *The Routledge Handbook on the Philosophy of Desire*. Routledge.
2025. Longtermist Political Philosophy: An Agenda for Future Research (w/ Andreas T. Schmidt). In H. Greaves, J. Barrett, and D. Thorstad (Eds.), *Essays on Longtermism: Present Action for the Distant Future*. Oxford University Press, pp. 465-491.
2020. Laws, Norms, and Public Justification: The Limits of Law as an Instrument of Reform (w/ Gerald F. Gaus). In S. A. Langvatn, M. Kumm, & W. Sadurski (Eds.), *Public Reason and Courts*. Cambridge University Press, pp. 201-228.

Book Reviews

2023. Review of Ben Laurence, *Agents of Change: Political Philosophy in Practice*, *Ethics* 134: 141-146.
2022. Review of David Estlund, *Utopophobia: On the Limits (If Any) of Political Philosophy*, *Mind* 131: 691-700.
2020. Review of Kevin Vallier, *Must Politics be War?: Restoring our Trust in the Open Society*, *Journal of Moral Philosophy* 17: 567-570.

SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

S. Family Dean's Faculty Fellow in Social Justice, Vanderbilt University, 2026-2028
William H. Fink Prize for Overall Outstanding Graduate Student, University of Arizona, 2020
Social Philosophy & Policy Research Assistant Fellowship, University of Arizona, 2019-2020
Joel Feinberg Dissertation Fellowship, University of Arizona, 2018-2019
Templeton Research Assistant Fellowship, University of Arizona, 2015-2016, 2016-2017
Graduate College Fellowship, University of Arizona, 2013-2014

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

"Progressive Conservation"
Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society Conference, New Orleans, LA, 2025

"What Can We Learn from the Diversity Trumps Ability Theorem?"
Workshop on Civic Approaches to Governance, University of Cincinnati, 2025
Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society Conference, New Orleans, LA, 2024

"In Defense of Moderation"
American Philosophical Association: Pacific Division, Portland, OR, 2023

"Democracy and Authoritarianism in the Long Run"
Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society Conference, New Orleans, LA, 2023

"The Case for Weak Longtermism"
LSE-GPI Joint Workshop on Longtermism, London School of Economics, 2023

"Philanthropy for the Disenfranchised"
PPE Conference, University of Groningen, 2023
Hong Kong Catastrophic Risk Centre, Lingnan University, 2023
Department of Philosophy, Vanderbilt University, 2023
Department of Philosophy, University at Buffalo, 2023
Department of Philosophy, University of California, San Diego, 2023

"Longtermist Political Philosophy: An Agenda for Future Research"
Centre for the Study of Social Justice, University of Oxford, 2022

"Social Beneficence"
Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society Conference, New Orleans, LA, 2022
Nuffield Political Theory Workshop, University of Oxford, 2022
Centre for Ethics, Law and Public Affairs, University of Warwick, 2022

"Ideology Critique and Game Theory"
American Philosophical Association: Central Division, Chicago, IL, 2022 (symposium)
Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society Conference, New Orleans, LA, 2022

"Moral Uncertainty and Public Justification"
Centre for the Study of Social Justice, University of Oxford, 2021

"Social Experimentation in an Unjust World"
9th Annual Workshop for Oxford Studies in Political Philosophy, Tucson, AZ, 2021

"Ethical Veganism and Free Riding"
Centre for the Study of Social Justice, University of Oxford, 2021
DaGERS Ethics Reading Group, University of California, Davis, 2020

"Efficient Egalitarianism"/ "The Equal Consideration of Interests"
Department of Philosophy, University of Toronto, 2022
Department of Philosophy, Brown University, 2021
Department of Philosophy, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2020
Department of Politics, New York University, 2020
Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society Conference, New Orleans, LA, 2019

"Social Reform in a Complex World"
Department of Philosophy, University of Sheffield, 2020
Department of Political Science, University of Amsterdam, 2019
Southern Journal of Philosophy Workshop, University of Memphis, 2019
Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society Conference, New Orleans, LA, 2018

"Interpersonal Comparisons with Preferences and Desires"
Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society Conference, New Orleans, LA, 2017

TEACHING

Vanderbilt University

Instructor

Justice (Spring 2024, Spring 2025)
Moral Problems (Spring 2025)
Ethics and Law (Spring 2024, Fall 2024)
Introduction to Ethics (Fall 2023)
Graduate Seminar: Social Progress (upcoming, Fall 2026)
Graduate Seminar: Ideal and Non-Ideal Theory (Fall 2024)
Graduate Seminar: The Epistemology of Democracy (Fall 2023)

Advising

2 dissertation committees (Sung Jun Han, Ismail Kurun)
1 senior honors thesis

University of Oxford

Tutorial

Theory of Politics (Trinity 2022)

Advising

2 BPhil (masters) students

University of Arizona

Instructor

The Social Contract (Fall 2018)
Contemporary Moral Problems (Spring 2018)
Neuroethics (Fall 2017)
History of Moral and Political Philosophy (Summer 2017)
Law and Morality (Fall 2016, Summer 2016)

Teaching Assistant

Personal Morality (Sartorio, Fall 2015)
The Ethics and Economics of Wealth Creation (Wall, Spring 2015)
Philosophical Perspectives on the Individual (Weinberg, Fall 2014)
Logic and Critical Thinking (Weinberg, Fall 2013)

SERVICE

Referee: *American Journal of Political Science*; *American Political Science Review*; *Analysis*; *Analytic Philosophy*; *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*; *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*; *Diametros*; *Economics and Philosophy*; *Economics & Politics*; *Erkenntnis*; *Ethical Perspectives*; *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*; *Ethics*; *Ethics and International Affairs*; *European Journal of Political Theory*; *History of Philosophy Quarterly*; *Hobbes Studies*; *Homo Oeconomicus*; *Inquiry*; *Journal of Applied Philosophy*; *Journal of Ethics*; *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*; *Journal of Moral Philosophy*; *Journal of Philosophical Research*; *Journal of Philosophy*; *Journal of Political Philosophy*; *Journal of Politics*; *Journal of Social Philosophy*; *Journal of Value Inquiry*; *Legal Theory*; *Moral Philosophy and Politics*; *Noûs*; *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*; *The Philosophical Forum; Philosophical Studies*; *Philosophy Compass*; *Philosophy & Public Affairs*; *Philosophy of Science*; *Political Philosophy*; *Political Research Quarterly*; *Political Studies*; *Politics, Philosophy & Economics*; *Public Affairs Quarterly*; *Res Publica*; *Social Philosophy & Policy*; *Social Theory and Practice*; *Southwest Philosophy Review*; *Synthese*; *Theoria* (Wiley); *Theoria* (Berghahn); *Utilitas*;
Cambridge University Press; Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada; Canadian Philosophical Association; Ohio Philosophical Association; Tennessee Philosophical Association

Member, Graduate Admissions Committee, Vanderbilt University, 2025-2026

Co-organizer, Social and Political Thought Workshop, Vanderbilt University, 2024-present

Organizer, quarterly reading group on contemporary moral/political philosophy, University of Oxford, 2020-2022

Organizer, annual reading group on the history of moral/political philosophy, University of Arizona, 2015-2020

Editorial Assistant, *Social Philosophy & Policy*, 2015-2017, 2019-2020

Climate Committee Member, Philosophy Department, University of Arizona, 2018-2019

Graduate Student Representative, Philosophy Department, University of Arizona, 2015-2016