
CONTACT INFORMATION:

Center for Science and Thought
Universität Bonn
Bonn, Germany

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Senior Research Fellow, Universität Bonn	Fall 2022-present
Associate Research Fellow, Academy of International Affairs – NRW	April 2024-present
Associate Professor of Philosophy, Spring Hill College	Fall 2021-Spring 2025
Director of Gender Studies Program, Spring Hill College	Fall 2021-Spring 2023
Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Spring Hill College	Fall 2017-Spring 2021
Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of Tampa	Fall 2016-Spring 2017
Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Spring Hill College	Fall 2014-Spring 2016

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The SETI Institute: Science Advisory Board Member & Affiliate	2024-present
Post-Detection Hub – UK SETI Research Network (University of St. Andrews): International Affiliate & Human Factors Working Group co-Chair	2022-present

RESEARCH AREAS

Ethical Theory, Astrobiology Ethics, Technology Ethics, AI Ethics, Ethics of Space Exploration, Environmental Philosophy, Ethics of Science, Bioethics, Intergenerational Ethics, Feminist Philosophy, Public Philosophy

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Philosophy – Univ. of Colorado, Boulder	May 2014
Graduate Certificate, Women & Gender Studies – Univ. of Colorado, Boulder	May 2009
B.A., Philosophy – Univ. of Illinois, Chicago	May 2005

PUBLICATIONS

Ethics and Extraterrestrial Communication: The Moral Responsibilities of Cosmic Messengers. Routledge [UNDER CONTRACT].

Sustainable AI Futures. eds. Markus Gabriel, Chelsea Haramia & Aimee van Wynsberghe. Oxford University Press [UNDER CONTRACT].

“Systemic Value and Its Relational Status in the Natural Cosmic World” in *Value Beyond Earth: Explorations in Exo-Axiology*, edited by Andrew Davis, Palgrave Macmillan [FORTHCOMING].

“Respect for the Non-Living in Early-Stage Space Expansion” in [Crime, Criminal Justice, and Ethics in Outer Space](#), edited by Yarin Eski and Jack Lampkin, Routledge (2024).

“Is Life Observable?” (co-authored with Thomas Metcalf) in [Exophilosophy: The Philosophical Implications of Alien Life](#), ed. Richard Playford, Routledge (2024).

“[Asymmetric Threats and Ethical Movements](#)” in *Diálogos* Special Issue on Environmental Philosophy (2024).

“[Intentional Astrobiological Signaling and Questions of Causal Impotence](#)” in *Ethics and Information Technology* (2024).

“Astrobiological Searches for Life and Shared Knowledge” in [Astrophilosophy, Cosmotheology, and Religiosity in a Process Universe](#), edited by Andrew M. Davis and Roland Faber, Rowman & Littlefield (2024).

“Understanding the Question of Whether to Message Extraterrestrial Intelligence” in [Routledge Handbook of Social Studies of Outer Space](#), edited by Paola Castaño, Alice Gorman, and Juan Francisco Salazar. Routledge: Oxfordshire, UK (2023).

“Embodiment in Space Imagery: Beyond the Dominant Narrative” (co-authored with Daniela De Paulis) in [Reclaiming Space: Progressive and Multicultural Visions of Space Exploration](#), edited by James S.J. Schwartz, Linda Billings, and Erika Nesvold. Oxford University Press: Oxford (2023).

“[Geopolitical Implications of a Successful SETI Program](#)” (co-authored with Jason T. Wright and Gabriel Swiney) in *Space Policy* (Oct. 2022).

“An Ethical Assessment of SETI, METI, and the Value of Our Planetary Home” (co-authored with Julia DeMarines) in [Astrobiology: Science, Ethics, and Public Policy](#), edited by Octavio Chon Torres, Ted Peters, Joseph Seckbach, and Russell Gordon. Wiley Scrivener: New York, 269-289 (2021).

“[Feminism Part 3: The Dominance Approach](#)” in *1000-Word Philosophy: An Introductory Anthology* (August 2020).

“The Imperative to Create an Ethically-Informed METI Protocol” (co-authored with Julia DeMarines) in *Theology and Science*, vol. 7, no. 1 (Jan. 2019).

“Disabusing Physicians of the Assumption of Competing Interests” in *The American Journal of Bioethics*, vol. 19, no. 1 (Jan. 2019).

“[Applied Ethics](#)” in *1000-Word Philosophy: An Introductory Anthology* (Feb. 2018).

“How to Think About the Individual as a Non-Autonomous Community” in *The American Journal of Bioethics*, vol. 6, no. 2 (Feb. 2016).

“Fictional Objects, Future Objectives: Why Existence Matters Less Than You Think” (co-authored with Eva Dadlez) in *Philosophy and Literature*, vol. 39, no. 2 (Oct. 2015).

[“Why We Should Stop Creating Pets with Lives Worth Living”](#) in *Between the Species*, vol. 17, no.1 (July 2015).

“Evolved, not Causa Sui: An Embodiment Critique of Freedom and Responsibility” in *The American Journal of Bioethics Neuroscience*, vol. 6, no. 2 (June 2015).

[“Free Will and Moral Responsibility”](#) in *1000-Word Philosophy: An Introductory Anthology* (June 2014).

“PGD and Parental Obligations: What Parents Owe to Communities That Do Not Yet Exist” in *The American Journal of Bioethics*, vol. 13, no. 10 (Oct. 2013).

[“Our Responsibility to the Non-Existent”](#) in *Southwest Philosophy Review*, vol. 29, no. 1 (Jan. 2013).

INVITED TALKS

Keynote Speaker: “Sustainable Technology Puzzles and the Extraterrestrial Turn” March 2025
Contemporary Developments in Space Ethics Conference
hosted by The Society for Applied Philosophy and the Open University, UK

“Technology and Sustainability: Ethical Connections Between the Terrestrial and Extraterrestrial” January 2025
Techne and Human Sciences in the 21st Century Winter Institute
hosted by the University of Tokyo

Speaker & Panelist: “Unsustainable AI and Global Ethical Inequality” December 2024
Cross-cultural Approaches to Desirable AI Seminar Series
hosted by University of Bonn, Cambridge University, University of Potsdam, & University of Tokyo

Panelist: “Responsibility in Space” December 2024
UN World Space Forum event hosted by the Academy for International Affairs

“Difficult Decisions and the Pursuit of Desirable AI” June 2024
Webfare Workshop—from Data Warfare to Data Well-Being
hosted by The New Institute, Hamburg

“Dear E.T.: An Active, Community-Based Approach to Inclusive Debates in SETI Ethics” June 2024
Colloquium presentation hosted by the University of California, Riverside
Astrobiology Seminar Series

“Questions of Earth’s Detectability and Preparations for Post-Detection” September 2023
Academy of International Affairs-NRW Summer Academy on Outer Space Affairs

“Challenging Assumptions of Moral Equivalence Among Earth’s Detectable Signals” November 2022
hosted by the Religion and Astrobiology in Culture and Society Network
St. Mary’s University, UK

“Challenging Assumptions of Moral Equivalence Among Earth’s Detectable Signals” November 2022
Bioethics Colloquium presentation hosted by Pennsylvania State University

Plenary Speaker: “Astrobiological Searches for Shared Knowledge” 10 th Annual Astrobiology, Exo-Philosophy, and Cosmic Religion Conference, hosted by the Center for Process Studies at Willamette University	May 2022
“A Brief History and Moral Analysis of Astrobiological Searching and Astrobiological Signaling” Colloquium presentation hosted by the University of California, Riverside Astrobiology Seminar Series	April 2022
“Is Searching for Extraterrestrial Intelligence Irrational? Is It Immoral?” Colloquium presentation hosted by the PSETI Center and the Rock Ethics Institute at Penn State University	October 2021
Panelist: Interdisciplinary SETI Assembly of the Order of the Octopus	July 2021
“Active Versus Passive Searches: An Ethical Assessment” International Academy of Astronautics SETI Community Meeting	July 2020
“Seeking Shared Values while Searching for Intelligent Life” Making Contact 2019 Workshop, sponsored by the Breakthrough Listen Initiative and hosted by the University of California, Berkeley	August 2019
“The Value of Humanity and the Values of ETI” Colloquium Presentation for Berkeley SETI Research Center hosted by the University of California, Berkeley	March 2019
“Disabusing Physicians of the Assumption of Competing Interests in Policy Revisions Regarding Opioid Abuse” 2 nd Annual Conference on Ethics and Opioids at the University of South Alabama	November 2018
“The Axiology of Reacting” Colloquium Presentation at the University of Wyoming	February 2013
“Parfit’s Dilemma and a Third Option” Colloquium Series Presentation at the University of Colorado, Boulder	October 2012

NEWS ARTICLES

“How to Chart a Moral Future for Space Exploration” Co-authored with Julia DeMarines, Émilie A. Laflèche, & Michael L. Wong <i>Nature</i> : Comment	July 2025
“How Should We Search for Intelligent Life in the Cosmos?” “Philosophers on Space Exploration” installment of the “Philosophers On” series for <i>Daily Nous</i>	February 2021
“Why We Need Space Ethicists” <i>Noëma Magazine</i>	November 2021

SELECT PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

“Sustainability Puzzles and the Extraterrestrial Turn” [UPCOMING] Penn State SETI Symposium	August 2025
“SETI in the Real World: Post-Detection and More” [UPCOMING] Breakout Session: Penn State SETI Symposium	August 2025
“Moral Status and the ‘I’ in SETI” UK SETI Research Network Post-Detection Hub Workshop St. Andrews University	July 2025
“Causal Impotence and Cosmic Messaging: A Logical Response to the Barn Door Argument” IAA International Astronautical Congress	October 2024
“Global Technology and Environmental Inequality: The Imperative Not to Create Morally Permissible Environmental Degradation” 4TU.ETHICS ESDIT Conference: Rethinking Ethics – Reimagining Technology University of Twente	October 2024
“AI, Post-Detection, and the Possibility of Consent” The Society for Social and Conceptual Issues in Astrobiology	September 2024
“Only Roses: Transformative Experience and Life without Labor” Toiling with Tech Conference, University of Tokyo & University of Bonn	August 2024
“Global Technology and Environmental Inequality” Leave No One Behind: Who Is Affected by Current AI development, Governance, Standardization, and Regulation Processes Workshop University of Bonn - Center for Science and Thought: Zertifizierte KI	July 2024
“Distinguishing Threats and Critiquing Movements to Promote Just Space Environments” Environmental Justice in Space Workshop – JustSpace Alliance	June 2024
“Astroethics for a New Era of Planetary Exploration” Co-authored with Emilie Lafleche, Michael Wong, and Julia DeMarines AbSciCon (Astrobiology Science Conference)	May 2024
“Desirable AI” Twentieth International Conference on Technology, Knowledge, and Society at Polytechnic University of Valencia	March 2024
“Rejecting the Causal Impotence Defense of Intentional Astrobiological Signaling” International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology	July 2023
“AI, Post-Detection, and the Possibility of Consent” Pennsylvania State University PSETI Symposium	June 2023
“Non-identity Problems and Astrobiological Responsibilities”	May 2023

Oxygen in Planetary Atmospheres Workshop – Green Bank Observatory

“Is There a Moral Difference Between Messaging and Mere Detection?” American Philosophical Association – Central Division	February 2023
“Challenging Assumptions of Moral Equivalence Among Earth’s Detectable Signals” Georgia Philosophical Society Conference on Contemporary Issues	December 2022
“Is There a Moral Difference Between Messaging and Mere Detection?” Pennsylvania State University PSETI Symposium	June 2022
“The Detectability of Humanity and Why It Matters” AbSciCon (Astrobiology Science Conference)	May 2022
“The Detectability of Humanity and Why It Matters” The Society for Social and Conceptual Issues in Astrobiology	March 2022
“Against A Skeptical Account of Extraterrestrial Values” The Association for Practical and Professional Ethics	February 2021
“Seeking Shared Values While Searching for ETI” The Society for Social and Conceptual Issues in Astrobiology	December 2020
“The Morality of Interstellar Messaging” The International Astronautical Congress	October 2019
“The Imperative to Create an Ethically-Informed METI Protocol” (co-authored with Julia DeMarines) Florida Philosophical Association	November 2018
“The Ethics of Intentionally Transmitting Messages to Extraterrestrial Intelligence” (co-authored with Julia DeMarines) The Society for Social and Conceptual Issues in Astrobiology	April 2018
“The Imperative to Create Ethically-Informed METI Protocols” (co-authored with Julia DeMarines) Public Philosophy Network Conference	February 2018
“Why Hard Incompatibilism is Compatible with Most Moral Practices” Alabama Philosophical Society	October 2016
“Beneficial Oppression and the Harm of Fighting It” Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress	August 2016
“Beneficial Oppression and the Harm of Fighting It” Alabama Philosophical Society	October 2015
“Humean Revisionsim” South-Central Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies	February 2015
“Fictional Objects, Future Objectives: Why Existence Matters Less Than You Think”	April 2014

(co-authored with Eva Dadlez)
American Society for Aesthetics – Pacific Division

“Future Generations, Present Responsibilities: What We Owe to Whomever We Create”
International Society for Environmental Ethics
June 2013

“Fictional Objects, Future Objectives: Why Existence Matters Less Than You Think”
(co-authored with Eva Dadlez)
Canadian Society for Aesthetics
July 2013

“Our Responsibility to the Non-Existent”
Southwest Philosophical Society
November 2012

“The Moral Asymmetry of Praise and Blame”
American Philosophical Association – Pacific Division
April 2011

“A De-Dicto Solution to the Non-Identity Problem”
Northwest Philosophy Conference
October 2009

GRANTS & AWARDS

European COST Action Grant – Proposer and Management Committee Member
(€125,000-€150,000 per year)
FOGOS project: “Futures-Oriented Governance of Outer Space: Towards Peace, Equity, and Environmental Integrity”
2024-present

Ignatian Great Ideas for Teachers Award (\$250)
college-wide competition to demonstrate best practices in teaching and Ignatian pedagogy
December 2019

Florence Husted Lowe and F. Rex Lowe Fellowship
awarded annually by the School of Arts and Humanities at the University of Colorado at Boulder
2013-2014

President’s Prize – Southwest Philosophical Society (\$150)
prize-winning paper: “Our Responsibility to the Non-Existent”
November 2012

SELECT MEDIA & INTERVIEWS

„[Vielleicht hat man uns schon entdeckt](#)“ in *General-Anzeiger* (December 2024)

“[Who Picks Up the Phone When ET Calls Earth? It’s Complicated](#)” in *Supercluster* (August 2024)

“[We Come in Peace\(?\): The Ethics Around Extra-Terrestrial Engagement](#)” in *Medium* (January 2024)

“[Are We Alone in the Universe?](#)” for BBC’s *The Inquiry* (August 2023)

“[A Look Behind the Sign](#)” written for *A Sign in Space* project (August 2023)

[“Scientific Imagination x A Sign in Space”](#) for *Future Based* podcast (July 2023)

[“The Race Is on to Crack an Artist’s ‘Test’ Signal from Aliens”](#) in *Wired* (June 2023)

[“The Ethics of X”](#) *A Sign in Space* Workshop (June 2023)

[Launch Event – “SETI Live: A Sign in Space—Simulating First Contact”](#) (May 2023)

[“Understanding the Question of Whether to Message Extraterrestrial Intelligence”](#) *New Work in Philosophy* substack (March 2023)

[“The Political Repercussions of Detecting Alien Intelligence May Not Go As You’d Think”](#) *IFL Science* (October 2022)

[“On the Ethics of METI”](#) *Wow! Signal* podcast (November 2020)

TEACHING

Spring Hill College

The Ethics of Space Exploration
Philosophy and the Future
Philosophy and Film
Philosophy of Art
Philosophy of Gender
Advanced Environmental Ethics
Business Ethics
Philosophy for Children
Animal Ethics
Honors Ethics
Environmental Ethics
Ethics

University of Tampa

Film Aesthetics
Modern Philosophy
Ethics
Feminist Philosophy
Environmental Ethics
Animal Ethics

SERVICE

Science Advisory Board Member – The SETI Institute	2024-present
Co-chair of Human Factors Working Group – UK SETI Research	2023-present
Network Post-Detection Hub	
Co-editor of <i>1000-Word Philosophy</i> Journal	2017-present
NASA’s Communicating Discoveries in the Search for Life in the Universe Event – Tier 1 participant	2024
Referee for the journal <i>International Journal of Astrobiology</i>	2024
Referee for the journal <i>Space Policy</i>	2024
Instructor – Penn State Microcredential on “Ethics, Intelligence, and the Search for Extraterrestrials”	2023-2024
Program Director for Gender Studies	2021-2023

<i>A Sign in Space</i> Advisory Team member	2021-2023
Rank & Tenure Committee	2021-2023
Education Technology Committee (Chair 2020-2021)	2020-2023
Manuscript proposal Referee for Routledge	2022
Referee for the journal <i>Medicine, Healthcare, and Philosophy</i>	2021
Referee for the journal <i>Science and Engineering Ethics</i>	2021
Referee for the journal <i>Southwest Philosophy Review</i>	2020
Manuscript proposal Referee for Oxford University Press	2020
Referee for the journal <i>Environmental Philosophy</i>	2019
Referee for the <i>American Journal of Bioethics</i>	2017 & 2025
Philosophers' Cocoon Mentoring Program Mentor	2017-2021
Alabama Philosophical Society President	2018-2019
Organizer for the Alabama Philosophical Society Conference	2018-2019
Bioethics Bowl Judge, University of South Alabama	2018
Alabama Philosophical Society Vice-president	2017-2018
Alabama Philosophical Society Secretary/Treasurer	2016-2017
Academic Standards Committee	2015-2020
Graduate Student President	2013-2014
Diversity Outreach Program Coordinator	2013-2014
Philosophy Outreach Program Visitor, Niwot High School	2013
Organizer of the 15 th Annual Rocky Mtn. Philosophy Conference	2011-2013
Philosophy Department Climate Committee	2012-2013
Director of Undergraduate Mentor Program	2009-2012
Diversity Committee	2008-2014