

Aaron Ancell

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor Bentley University, Department of Philosophy	since 2019
Postdoctoral Fellow-In-Residence Harvard University, Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics	2018 – 2019
Postdoctoral Fellow University of Toronto, Centre for Ethics	2017 – 2018

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Philosophy, Duke University Dissertation: <i>Public Unreason: Essays on Political Disagreement</i>	2017
B.A. (Honours), Philosophy, Simon Fraser University	2011

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

1. **Ancell, A.** (2025) "Does Corporate Political Advocacy Wrong Shareholders?" *Journal of Business Ethics*. Online.
2. **Ancell, A.** (2024) "Compelled Speech at Work: Employer Mobilization as a Threat to Employee Speech Rights." *Philosophy of Management*. Online.
3. **Ancell, A.** (2023) "Corporate Counterspeech." *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* 26(4): 61-625.
4. **Ancell, A.** (2022) "Bias, Safeguards, and the Limits of Individuals." *Business Ethics Journal Review* 10(5): 27-32.
5. **Ancell, A.** (2020) "Political Irrationality, Utopianism, and Democratic Theory." *Politics, Philosophy and Economics* 19(1): 3-21.
6. **Ancell, A.** (2019) "The Fact of Unreasonable Pluralism." *Journal of the American Philosophical Association* 5(4): 410-428.
7. **Ancell, A.** & Sinnott-Armstrong, W. (2019) "The Need for Feasible Compromises on Conscientious Objection: Response to Card." *Journal of Medical Ethics* 45(8): 560-561.
8. Norman, W. & **Ancell, A.** (2018) "Democratic Theory for a Market Democracy: The Problem of Merriment and Diversion When Regulators and the Regulated Meet." *Journal of Social Philosophy* 49(4): 536-563.
9. **Ancell, A.** (2017) "Democracy isn't *that* smart (but we can make it smarter): On Landemore's *Democratic Reason*." *Episteme* 14(2): 161-175.
10. **Ancell, A.** & Sinnott-Armstrong, W. (2017) "How to Allow Conscientious Objection in Medicine While Protecting Patient Rights." *Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics* 26(1): 120-131.
11. Flanagan, O., **Ancell, A.** Martin, S. & Steenbergen, G. (2014) "Empiricism and normative ethics: What do the biology and the psychology of morality have to do with ethics?" *Behaviour* (Special

Issue: *Evolved Morality: The Biology and Philosophy of Human Conscience* edited by Frans de Waal, Patricia Churchland, Telmo Pievani, and Stefano Parmigiani) 151 (2-3): 208-228.

12. McColeman, C., **Ancell, A.** & Blair, M. (2011) "A tale of two processes: Categorization accuracy and attentional learning dissociate with imperfect feedback" *Proceedings of the 33rd Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society*: 1661-1666.

Book Chapters

1. **Ancell, A.** (forthcoming) "Can Loneliness be an Injustice?" in Axel Seemann, Emily Hughes, Joel Krueger, and Tom Roberts (eds.) *An Interdisciplinary Investigation of Loneliness*, London: Bloomsbury.
2. **Ancell, A.** (2021) "Liberalism," in William Galston and Tom Palmer (eds.) *Truth and Governance*, Washington DC: Brookings Institute Press.

Public Philosophy

Ancell, A. "Soundness" (2014) video for *Wireless Philosophy*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3P0fUHUaZcs>

PRESENTATIONS

Conference & Workshop Presentations

"Employer Mobilization, Compelled Speech, and Double Counting" Politics, Philosophy, and Economics Society Conference New Orleans, LA	2024
"Does Corporate Political Advocacy Wrong Shareholders?" <i>Society For Business Ethics Annual Conference</i> Chicago, IL	2024
"Who Knows What and Who Cares? The Epistemic Challenge for Smart Regulation and Meaningful Corporate Responsibility in the Mid-21 st Century" (with Wayne Norman) Politics, Philosophy, and Economics Society Conference New Orleans, LA	2023
"Should Corporations Stay Out of Politics?" Zicklin Center Normative Business Ethics Workshop The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania	2023
"Corporate Counterspeech" <i>Society for Business Ethics Annual Conference</i> Seattle, WA	2022
"Corporate Counterspeech" <i>Workshop on Counterspeech</i> Online	2021
"Ideal and Non-Ideal Theory in Business Ethics" <i>Society for Business Ethics Annual Conference</i> Online	2020
"Who Knows What? Corporate Responsibility in the 21 st -Century Regulatory State" (with Wayne Norman) <i>Society for Business Ethics Annual Conference</i> Boston, MA	2019

Ancell CV

- “What is political polarization and when is it bad?” 2018
MANCEPT Workshop: Truth, Knowledge, and Political Disagreement
University of Manchester, U.K.
- “Compromising Justice: Should we be principled or pragmatic?” 2018
Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Meeting
University of Montreal, Canada
- “Dirty Compromises: The Ethics of Making Concessions to Injustice” 2018
C4E-CRE Joint Workshop
University of Toronto, Canada
- “Utopianism and Political Irrationality” 2018
American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division Meeting
Savanna, GA
- “Utopianism and Political Irrationality” 2017
Western Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Meeting
University of Regina, Canada
- “The Fact of Unreasonable Pluralism” 2017
American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meeting
Kansas City, MO
- “The Fact of Unreasonable Pluralism” 2016
Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Congress
University of Calgary, Canada
- “The Fact of Unreasonable Pluralism” 2016
North Carolina Philosophical Society Annual Meeting
Appalachian State University, NC
- “We Want Kids Too: Should Doctors Be Allowed to Refuse to Help Gay Couples Have Children?” (with Walter Sinnott-Armstrong) 2015
Conscience and Conscientious Objection in Healthcare
University of Oxford, U.K.
- “Democracy and the Regulatory State: Why it’s time to end the benign neglect, and how to begin to do so” (with Wayne Norman) 2015
Society for Business Ethics Annual Conference
Vancouver, Canada
- “Democracy and the Regulatory State: Why it’s time to end the benign neglect, and how to begin to do so” (with Wayne Norman) 2015
Association for Social and Political Philosophy Annual Conference University of Amsterdam, Netherlands
- “Reasonable Compromises with Unreasonable Views” 2015
Compromise and Disagreement
University of Copenhagen, Denmark
- “Weak and Strong Action-Guiding in Ideal Theories” (with Orlin Vakarelov) 2015
American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting
Vancouver, Canada
- “Weak and Strong Action-Guiding in Ideal Theories” (with Orlin Vakarelov) 2015
North Carolina Philosophical Society Annual Meeting
North Carolina State University, USA

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“Contrastive Closure is Still Wide Open” 2014
North Carolina Philosophical Society Annual Meeting
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, USA

Invited Talks

“Should corporations stay out of politics?” 2024
Toronto Metropolitan University
Toronto, ON

“Dirty Compromises: The Ethics of Making Concessions to Injustice” 2018
Lake Forest College
Lake Forest, IL

“What is Political Polarization and When is it Bad?” 2018
Kenan Institute for Ethics
Duke University, Durham, NC

“To Nudge or Not to Nudge? You Don’t Really Have a Choice.” 2018
Business Ethics Speakers Series
Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada

Comments

On Daphne Brandenburg’s “Think of the Children” 2024
Wharton-Groningen PPE Workshop
Groningen, NL

On Elizabeth Edenberg’s “Rawlsian Disagreement and Epistemic Peers” 2019
American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division Meeting
Vancouver, Canada

On Mihailis Diamantis’s “The Extended Corporate Mind” 2019
Business Ethics in a Digital Age
Harvard Business School, Cambridge MA

On Jordan Thomson’s “Having it Good Without Being Bad: Toward A Defense of Moral Moderation” 2018
Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Meeting
University of Montreal, Canada

On Howard Nye’s “In Defense of a Harm-Based Account of the Default Wrongness of Killing” 2018
Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Meeting
University of Montreal, Canada

On Whitney Lilly’s “Constitutive Attitudes and the Suspension of Judgment” 2017
Western Canadian Philosophical Association Annual Meeting
University of Regina, Canada

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

As Sole Instructor

Bentley University
PH 101: Problems of Philosophy
PH 131: Business Ethics: Philosophy of Work
PH 312: Liberty, Morality, and Law

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PH 317: Democracy and Power
FDS100: Falcon Discovery Seminar (First Year Seminar)

University of Toronto
ETH201: Contemporary Moral Problems
ETH230: Morality in Cross Cultural Perspective

Duke University
Phil103S: Introduction to Philosophy
Phil150S: Logic

SERVICE TO COMMUNITY AND PROFESSION

Bentley University

Committee Member, Bartlett Chair Search Committee	since 2025
Committee Member, Academic Integrity Council	since 2024
Committee Member, PH Department Hiring Committee (tenure-track)	2024 to 2025
Committee Member, PH Department Hiring Committee (lecturer)	2023 to 2024
Committee Member, PH Department Hiring Committee (tenure-track)	2021 to 2022
Committee Member, PH Department Hiring Committee (lecturer)	2020 to 2021
Committee Member, LMS Implementation Faculty Advisory Committee	2022 to 2023
Committee Member, Teaching and Scholarly Activities Committee	2020 to 2023
Faculty Advisor, College Kindness student organization	2021 to 2022
Committee Member, Communications Sequence Working Group	2021 to 2022

Reviewing

American Journal of Political Science
Business Ethics Journal Review
Business Ethics Quarterly
Journal of Business Ethics
Journal of Value Inquiry
MIT Press
Philosophical Imprint
Philosophical Quarterly
Political Studies
Politics, Philosophy, and Economics
Res Publica
Routledge
Social Theory and Practice
Society for Business Ethics