

DAVID J. CLARK

Department of Philosophy • University of Arizona
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Areas of specialization: moral, legal, and political philosophy.

Areas of competence: metaethics, philosophy of religion.

EMPLOYMENT

University of Arizona , Tucson, AZ Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy Faculty Fellow, Center for the Philosophy of Freedom	2024–present
University of Arizona , Tucson, AZ Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Center for the Philosophy of Freedom	2023–2024

EDUCATION

University of Southern California , Los Angeles, CA Ph.D., Philosophy Dissertation: “Responding to Harm” Co-chairs: Jonathan Quong, Mark Schroeder Committee: Jake Nebel, Jake Ross, Gregory Keating	2017–2023
Northern Illinois University , DeKalb, IL M.A., Philosophy	2015–2017
Biola University , La Mirada, CA B.A., Philosophy	2009–2011
United States Military Academy , West Point, NY B.A., progress towards	2007–2009

PUBLICATIONS

“When Must Beneficiaries Pay?” <i>Free & Equal</i> .	forthcoming
“As If: Reasonable Mistakes and Defensive Liability.” <i>Free & Equal</i> .	2026
“Mistaken Defense and the Unbundling of Rights.” <i>Ethics</i> 135, no. 3: 428–457.	2025
“The Price of Duty.” <i>Journal of Moral Philosophy</i> : 1–31.	2025
“The Demands of Necessity.” <i>Ethics</i> 133, no. 4: 473–496.	2023
“Refusing Protection.” <i>Philosophy & Public Affairs</i> 51, no. 1: 33–59.	2022

PRESENTATIONS

“Thomson on Defense.” Pepperdine University.	Spring 2025
“The Justifier Pays.” Centre for Ethics, Law & Public Affairs, University of Warwick.	Fall 2024
“What’s for Desert?” Florida State University.	Spring 2024
“What’s for Desert?” Workshop on Harming, Rescuing, and Rights, University of Southern California.	Spring 2024

“What’s for Desert?” Workshop on Freedom & Responsibility, University of Arizona.	Spring 2024
“Defense Without Threat.” Purdue University.	Spring 2023
“Defense Without Threat.” University of Mississippi.	Spring 2023
“Defense Without Threat.” Ethics of Defense Workshop, University of Zurich.	Spring 2023
Comments on “Defensive Injuries and the Prorating of Punishment.” Pacific Division APA.	Spring 2023
“Mysterious Normative Relations.” Graduate Conference, University of California, Berkeley.	Spring 2019
“Fixing Aggregation.” Biola University.	Spring 2019

PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY

“Why ‘They Deserve It’ Isn’t Enough.” Guest post, Center for the Philosophy of Freedom Substack.	2026
“Planning for War’s Aftermath.” Guest post, <i>Public Ethics</i> blog.	2026
Featured discussion of “Refusing Protection.” PEA Soup.	2023

TEACHING

University of Arizona

Philosophy of Law (PHIL 438) · Spring 2026, Fall 2026
 Law & Morality (PHIL 324) · Fall 2025, Fall 2026
 Moral Thinking (PHIL 210) · Fall 2024, Fall 2025
 Shaping Our Moral Boundaries (PHIL 596, graduate seminar) · Spring 2025
 Ethics of War (graduate independent study) · Fall 2025
 Philosophy of Education (graduate independent study) · Fall 2026
 PPL module, European Master’s in Law & Economics · Spring 2025, Spring 2026

University of Southern California

The Philosophy of Markets, Money, and Property · Summer 2022, Summer 2023
 Ethics in the 21st Century · Summer 2019

SERVICE

Editorial

Co-editor (with Mark Timmons), <i>Oxford Studies in Normative Ethics</i>	2025–present
Managing Editor, <i>Journal of Ethics & Social Philosophy</i>	2019–2020

University of Arizona

Co-organizer (with Mark Timmons), Arizona Workshop in Normative Ethics	2025–present
Coordinator, Philosophy Colloquium Committee, Department of Philosophy	2024–present
Organizer, Talk Series, Center for the Philosophy of Freedom	2024–2025
Faculty Adviser, AI Safety Club	2026–present
Faculty Adviser, Effective Altruism Club	2026–present

Faculty Adviser, Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Club 2025–present

University of Southern California

President, Speculative Society (weekly graduate paper workshop) 2018–2019

Organizer, Philosophy of Religion Workshop 2019–2023

Media Production Assistant, Conceptual Foundations of Conflict Project 2021–2023

Referee

Ethics (5), *Journal of Moral Philosophy* (5), *Journal of Ethics & Social Philosophy* (4), *Mind* (2), *Philosophy & Public Affairs* (2), *Analysis* (2), *Philosophical Studies* (2), *Faith and Philosophy* (2), *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* (1), *Philosophers' Imprint* (1), *Philosophy, Politics & Economics* (1), *Criminal Law and Philosophy* (1), *Philosophical Quarterly* (1), *Ergo* (1).

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Graduate Fellow, Conceptual Foundations of Conflict Project 2021–2023

Research Assistant to Scott Soames 2021

Research Assistant to Stephen Finlay 2019–2021

REFERENCES

Jonathan Quong

Professor of Philosophy and Law, USC
Dissertation co-chair

Mark Schroeder

Professor of Philosophy, USC
Dissertation co-chair

Jake Nebel

Professor of Philosophy, Princeton
Dissertation committee member

Christopher Heath Wellman

Professor of Philosophy, Washington University
Collaborator

Michael McKenna

Professor of Philosophy, University of Arizona
Departmental colleague

Steven Wall

Professor of Philosophy, University of Arizona
Departmental colleague