

SCHOOL OF HISTORICAL, PHILOSOPHICAL, AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY
Jimmy [dot] Licon [at] asu.edu
[https:// sites.google.com/site/jimmyalicon](https://sites.google.com/site/jimmyalicon)
Last Updated: October 2025

CURRICULUM VITA
Jimmy Alfonso Licon

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2022-present **Assistant Teaching Professor**
School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies, *Arizona State University*
- 2021-2022 **Emergent Ventures Fellow**
The Mercatus Center, *George Mason University*
- 2021-2022 **Instructor**
McDonough Business School & Philosophy Department, *Georgetown University*
- 2019-2021 **Instructor**
Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, *Towson University*
- 2017-2022 **Instructor**
Department of Philosophy, *University of Maryland, College Park*

RESEARCH INTERESTS

AOS: Ethics, Epistemology, Political Economy, AI, and Philosophy of Religion
AOC: Metaphysics (esp. Time), Applied Ethics, Philosophy of Law

EDUCATION

(2019) **Ph.D. in Philosophy**—University of Maryland, College Park
DISSERTATION: *Some Epistemological and Practical Challenges to Moral Realism: Evolutionary Debunking, Overgeneralization, and Afterward*

COMMITTEE: Peter Carruthers, Dan Moller, Brian Kogelmann, Christopher W. Morris, Tomas Bogardus
(external member—Pepperdine)

(2012) **M.A. in Philosophy**—San Francisco State University
THESIS: *We Are the (Epistemic) Borg: Defending the Group Coherence Principle*
COMMITTEE: Carlos Montemayor and Isabelle Peschard

(2010) **A.B. in Philosophy**—University of California, Davis

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

(under contract) ***Better Not to Know: Why Knowing Less is Sometimes Best*** (Peter Lang)

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

25. (forthcoming) Without Thinking Twice: (Some Forms of) Ignorance as Moral Signaling: **Journal of Cognition and Culture**
24. (forthcoming) You Oughta Know: On the Possibility of Morally Mandatory Knowledge: **Episteme**
23. (forthcoming) ChatGPT is Bullshit (Partly) Because People are Bullshitters: **Philosophy & Technology**
22. (2025) Better Not to Know: On the Possibility of Culpable Knowledge: **Social Epistemology** 39 (1): 106-114
21. (2025) The Invisible Hand of Partisan Irrationality: **Ethics, Politics, and Society** 7 (2)
20. (2024) Transparency as Morally and Politically Corrupting: **Asian Journal of Philosophy** 3 (41)
19. (2024) Democracy Incentivizes Bullshit: From Weak Incentives to Epistemic Crises: **Social Philosophy Today** (40): 113-126
18. (2024) Better Spent Elsewhere: Why Philosophy Should Be Funded Less: **The Independent Review** 29 (1): 71-87
17. (2023) Should We Hope Apparent Atrocities Are Illusory? Exploring a Puzzle in Moral Axiology: **dialectica** 77 (2): 1-19
16. (2023) That Seems Wrong: Pedagogically Defusing Moral Relativism and Moral Skepticism: **International Journal of Ethics Education** (8): 335-349
15. (2023) Some Moral Benefits of Ignorance: **Philosophical Psychology** (36): 319-336
14. (2023) Why the Heck Would You Do Philosophy? A Practical Challenge to Philosophizing: **Logos & Episteme** 14 (2): 163-177
13. (2023) The Epistemology of Moral Praise and Moral Criticism: **Episteme** 20 (2): 337-348
12. (2022) Why Disdain Replicated Art? Metaphysics and Art in 'The Elephant in the Brain': **Philosophia** (50): 605-617
11. (2021) Aspirational Theism and Gratuitous Suffering: **Religious Studies** 57 (2): 287-300
10. (2020) Skeptical Hypotheses and Moral Skepticism – A Reply to May: **Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy** 18 (3): 289-297
9. (2019) Modest Meta-Philosophical Skepticism: **Ratio** 32 (2): 93-103
8. (2015) The Fine-Tuning Argument and the Problem of Poor Design: **Philosophia** 43 (2): 411-426
7. (2013) Dissecting the Suicide Machine Argument: Insights from the Hales-Licon Debate: **Logos & Episteme** 4 (3): 339-352
6. (2013) Properly Functioning Brains and Personal Identity: An Argument for Neural Animalism: **SATS** 14 (1): 63-69
5. (2013) On Merely Modal Epistemic Peers: **Philosophia** 41 (3): 809-823
4. (2012) Sceptical Thoughts on Philosophical Expertise: **Logos & Episteme** 3 (3): 449-458
3. (2012) Another Argument for Animalism: **Prolegomena** 11 (2): 169-180
2. (2012) Still No Suicide for Presentists: **Logos & Episteme** 3 (1): 145-151
1. (2011) No Suicide for Presentists: **Logos & Episteme** 2 (3): 455-464

INVITED ARTICLES & BOOK CHAPTERS

6. (forthcoming) Politics Vastly Increases the Moral Hazards of Artificial Intelligence: **The Philosophy of AI: Applied Issues in the Philosophy of AI**
5. (forthcoming) On Sophistry, Signaling, and the Persistence of Bullshit: Reply to Bullshit, Sophism, and ChatGPT: **Philosophy and Technology**
4. (forthcoming) If You Don't Know, Now You Know: MMA, Know-How, and Self-Defense: **Fighting and Philosophy**

3. (2025) Rowe Your (Own) Boat: Economic Productivity as Civic Virtue: ***Reason Papers*** 45 (2): 37-51
2. (2025) Why Doc Brown Should *Secretly* Destroy the DeLorean: ***Sci Phi Journal***
1. (2023) Moral Language: ***SAGE Encyclopedia of Leadership Studies*** Vol. II: 640-3

POPULAR ARTICLES & COLUMNS

43. (forthcoming) Synthetic Socrates, Teaching Assistant: ***Faculty Focus***
42. (forthcoming) Saving Singer's Drowning Child is Morally Different Than Donating: ***Think***
41. (forthcoming) Mask-less Shopping and Drunk Driving: A Reply to Spelman: ***Think***
40. (forthcoming) Dear Descartes: On Moral and Political Aspects of Skepticism in 'The Meditations': ***The Montreal Review***
39. (2025) Hidden in Plain Sight: How LLMs Will Unlock Buried Knowledge: ***American Institute for Economic Research***
38. (2025) Without Thinking Twice: (Some Forms of) Ignorance as Moral Signaling: ***The Humanist***
37. (2025) Beware of Moral Junk Food: ***Merion West***
36. (2025) How Self-Interest Civilizes Politics: ***American Institute for Economic Research***
35. (2025) Hearts on the Run (or How Parasites Gave Us Love): ***The Humanist***
34. (2025) When Political Violence Becomes a Signal: ***Mises Wire***
33. (2025) When Populations Decline, Markets Are Ever More Important: ***American Institute for Economic Research***
32. (2025) Affirmative Action for Hidden Merit: ***The Pamphlet***
31. (2025) Only Lobbying and Self-Deception Can Keep Tariffs Alive: ***American Institute for Economic Research***
30. (2025) Should Your Tesla Kill You or Other People? ***Merion West***
29. (2025) Rights, Fights, and the Economy of Self-Defense: ***Mises Wire***
28. (2025) Why People Suck at Charity: ***The Humanist***
27. (2025) Exploiting the Moral Unseen: ***Mises Wire***
26. (2025) ChatGPT Attends University: ***Minding the Campus***
25. (2025) Affirmation Action for Androids: ***Philosophy Now***
24. (2025) ChatGPT is Bullshit (Partly) Because People are Bullshitters: ***Liberty Affairs***
23. (2025) Students, Master Writing: ***Minding the Campus***
22. (2025) Reflections: I, Tariffed: ***The Independent Review***
21. (2025) DOGE and I, Pencil: ***Presser Magazine***
20. (2025) Synthetic Socrates and the Philosophers of the Future: ***Think | Runner-Up Prize, AI Impacts blog, Automation of Wisdom and Philosophy Essay Contest***
19. (2025) What Greta and the Pope Don't Grasp about Degrowth: ***American Institute for Economic Research***
18. (2024) Perpetuating the Santa Deception: ***Philosophy Now***
17. (2024) The Strange and Future Political Economy of AI: ***The Independent Review***
16. (2024) The Dark Sides of Transparency: ***The Independent Review***
15. (2024) Helping Social Security by Helping Yourself: ***American Institute for Economic Research***
14. (2024) Signaling Theory and Gender Acceptance: ***Aporia Magazine***
13. (2024) Cows and Sheep: Efficient Recyclers and Moral Subjects: ***The Montreal Review***
12. (2024) Why Be So Nice? ***Aporia Magazine***
11. (2024) Heaps of Trouble: ***American Institute for Economic Research***

10. (2024) My Body, My Speech: Self-Ownership and Freedom of Speech: **Think** 23 (66): 43-46
9. (2024) ChatGPT Goes to College: **Free Inquiry** 44 (2): 50-54
8. (2023) Driving Up Fatalities: Why Flight Vaccine Mandates Would (Likely) Backfire: **Mises Wire**
7. (2023) Does a Just Society Require Just Citizens? **Philosophy Now** (Oct/Nov): 26-28
6. (2022) Freedom of Expression and the Argument from Self-Defense: **Think** 21 (61): 23-31
5. (2017) Santa Claus and the Problem of Evil: **Philosophy Now** (Dec/Jan): 14-15
4. (2014) The Time Shuffling Machine and Metaphysical Fatalism: **Think** 14 (41): 57-68
3. (2014) You're an Animal, Plain and Simple: **Think** 13 (36): 61-70
2. (2013) Moral Manipulation and the Problem of Evil: **Philosophy Now** (Nov/Dec): 17-19
1. (2012) The Immorality of Procreation: **Think** 11 (32): 85-91

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Assistant Teaching Professor—Arizona State University (2022-present)

Phil 101: Introduction to Philosophy
 Phil 103: Principles of Sound Reasoning
 Phil 105: Introduction to Ethics
 Phil 300: Argumentation & Exposition
 Phil 307: Philosophy of Law
 Phil 310: Environmental Ethics
 Phil 320: Bioethics
 Phil 330: Theory of Knowledge
 Phil 335: History of Ethics
 Phil 360: Business & Professional Ethics
 Phil 420: Topics in Philosophy: Philosophy of Time

Instructor—Georgetown University (2021-22)

Phil 181: Philosophy of Religion (in-person)
 Phil 010: Introduction to Ethics (in-person)
 Strategy 230: Ethical Values of Business (in-person)

Instructor—Towson University (2019-2021)

Phil 101: Introduction to Philosophy (online)
 Phil 103: Introduction to Ethics (online/in-person)

Instructor—University of Maryland (2017-2022)

Phil 209T: It's About Time (online)
 Phil 261: Philosophy of the Environment (online)
 Phil 140: Contemporary Moral Issues (online)
 Phil 100: Introduction to Philosophy (online)
 Phil 236: Philosophy of Religion (online)

AWARDS & GRANTS

Professor of Impact (Teaching) Award (ASU, x11)
Automation of Wisdom and Philosophy Contest, AI Impacts blog (cash prize, 2024)
Snider Center Dissertation Fellowship (2018—2019)
Best Graduate Paper, North Carolina Philosophical Society (cash prize, 2014)

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Peter Carruthers

Distinguished University Professor of Philosophy
 University of Maryland

pcarruth@umd.edu

Brian Kogelmann

Associate Professor of Philosophy
Purdue University
bkogel89@gmail.com

Tomas Bogardus

Associate Professor of Philosophy
Pepperdine University
tomas.bogardus@pepperdine.edu

Tyler Cowen

Holbert L. Harris Chair of Economics
George Mason University

tcowen@gmu.edu

Bernard Molyneux

Emeritus Professor of Philosophy
University of California, Davis
molyneux73@pm.me

Douglas Portmore

Professor of Philosophy
University of Notre Dame
dportmor@nd.edu

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

12. (2026) Aspirational Theism for Naturalistic Parents: *The Virtues and Vices of Having Children*
11. (2024) Strangers to Ourselves before God: *Society of Christian Philosophers (Midwest)*
10. (2023) Synthetic Socrates and the Philosophers of the Future: *New Mexico Texas Philosophical Society*
9. (2014) Why the Heck Would You Do Philosophy? *North Carolina Philosophical Conference*
8. (2013) Meta-Philosophical Skepticism: *Indiana Philosophical Association*
7. (2013) A Novel Argument for Neural Animalism: *XXIII World Congress of Philosophy*
6. (2013) Why Knowledge Might Not be Factive: *New Mexico West Texas Philosophy Conference*
5. (2012) Sceptical Thoughts on Philosophical Expertise: *Society for Exact Philosophy Conference*
4. (2012) The Immorality of Procreation: *The Aristotelian Society and the Mind Association*
3. (2012) But Theists Do It Too: *Society of Christian Philosophers (Mountain-Pacific) Conference*
2. (2012) Epistemic Access and Zombie Minds: *Intermountain West Student Philosophy Conference*
1. (2011) The Argument from Physical Minds: *Indiana Philosophical Association*

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & SERVICE

Reviewer: *Philosophia*, *Ratio*, *Social Theory and Practice*, *Religious Studies*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Nous*, *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*, *Philosophical Psychology*
Member, Society of Christian Philosophers (2018—present)
Member, American Philosophical Association (2011—present)
Graduate Student Representative: Philosophy Department, UMD (AY 2015—2016)
UMD Philosophy Outreach: Kenmoor Middle School, Landover, MD (2013—2015)