

SCHOOL OF HISTORICAL, PHILOSOPHICAL, AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES  
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY  
*Jimmy [dot] Licon [at] asu.edu*  
<https://sites.google.com/site/jimmyalcon>  
*Last Updated: January 2026*

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

(forthcoming) *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**

5. (forthcoming) Politics Vastly Increases the Moral Hazards of Artificial Intelligence: *Philosophy and AI: Applied Issues in the Philosophy of AI*
4. (forthcoming) If You Don't Know, Now You Know: MMA, Know-How, and Self-Defense: *Fighting and Philosophy*
3. (2025) On Sophistry, Signaling, and the Persistence of Bullshit: Reply to Bullshit, Sophism, and ChatGPT: *Philosophy and Technology*
2. (2025) Rowe Your (Own) Boat: Economic Productivity as Civic Virtue: *Reason Papers* 45 (2): 37-51
1. (2023) Moral Language: *SAGE Encyclopedia of Leadership Studies* Vol. II: 640-3

#### **POPULAR ARTICLES & COLUMNS**

49. (forthcoming) To Thine Own Selves Be True: The Ethics of Self-Care and the Golden Rule in *Severance: Sci Phi Journal*
48. (forthcoming) Teaching in the Age of AI: *Faculty Focus*
47. (forthcoming) Higher Education and Local Knowledge: *The Independent Review*
46. (forthcoming) Synthetic Socrates, Teaching Assistant: *Faculty Focus*
45. (forthcoming) Saving Singer's Drowning Child is Morally Different Than Donating: *Think*
44. (forthcoming) Mask-less Shopping and Drunk Driving: A Reply to Spelman: *Think*
43. (forthcoming) Dear Descartes: On Moral and Political Aspects of Skepticism in 'The Meditations': *The Montreal Review*
42. (2025) The Trouble with Technological Prophecies: *AIER Fusion*
41. (2025) The Rise and Fall of a (Transgender) Signal: *Aporia Magazine*
40. (2025) Why Doc Brown Should *Secretly* Destroy the DeLorean: *Sci Phi Journal*
39. (2025) The Second Information Revolution: How AI Makes Liberal Societies Both Stronger and Weaker: *American Institute for Economic Research*
38. (2025) Without Thinking Twice: (Some Forms of) Ignorance as Moral Signaling: *The Humanist*
37. (2025) If Being Virtuous Feels Empty, It Could be Junk: *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, x20)  
*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](mailto:pcarruth@umd.edu)

**Tyler Cowen**

Holbert L. Harris Chair of Economics  
George Mason University  
[tcowen@gmu.edu](mailto:tcowen@gmu.edu)

**Brian Kogelmann**

Associate Professor of Philosophy  
Purdue University  
[bkogel89@gmail.com](mailto:bkogel89@gmail.com)

**Bernard Molyneux**

Emeritus Professor of Philosophy  
University of California, Davis  
[molyneux73@pm.me](mailto:molyneux73@pm.me)

**Tomas Bogardus**

Associate Professor of Philosophy  
Pepperdine University  
[tomas.bogardus@pepperdine.edu](mailto:tomas.bogardus@pepperdine.edu)

**Douglas Portmore**

Professor of Philosophy  
University of Notre Dame  
[dportmor@nd.edu](mailto: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)