

SCHOOL OF HISTORICAL, PHILOSOPHICAL, AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES  
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY, TEMPE, AZ 85287

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Last Updated: May 2023

*Curriculum Vita*

## Jimmy Alfonso Licon

### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

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AOS:	Ethics & Epistemology (Cooperation, Signaling, and Ignorance), and Philosophy of Religion
AOC:	Metaphysics, Business Ethics, Philosophy of Law

### EDUCATION

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2019	<b>Ph.D. in Philosophy</b> University of Maryland, College Park
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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

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

## PUBLICATIONS

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### BOOKS:

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

This book explores the value of ignorance in many areas of life using philosophy, economics, and moral psychology, and defends the epistemic goldilocks' principle: benefits and costs constrain how much knowledge and ignorance is best.

### PEER REVIEWED:

16. (forthcoming) Should We Hope Apparent Atrocities Are Illusory? Exploring a Puzzle in Moral Axiology: **dialectica**

15. (forthcoming) That Seems Wrong: Pedagogically Defusing Moral Relativism and Moral Skepticism: **International Journal of Ethics Education**

14. (forthcoming) Some Moral Benefits of Ignorance: **Philosophical Psychology**

13. (forthcoming) The Epistemology of Moral Praise and Moral Criticism: **Episteme**

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:**

1. (forthcoming) Moral Language: **SAGE Encyclopedia of Leadership Studies**

#### **POPULAR PUBLICATIONS:**

7. (forthcoming) My Body, My Speech: Self-Ownership and Freedom of Speech: **Think**
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**

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

Phil 307: Philosophy of Law  
 Phil 101: Introduction to Philosophy  
 Phil 300: Argumentation & Exposition  
 Phil 310: Environmental Ethics  
 Phil 320: Bioethics  
 Phil 330: Theory of Knowledge  
 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 (3x; online)

Phil 103: Introduction to Ethics (12x; online/in-person)

**Instructor—University of Maryland (2017-2022)**

Phil 209T: It's About Time (3x; online)

Phil 261: Philosophy of the Environment (2x; online)

Phil 140: Contemporary Moral Issues (online)

Phil 100: Introduction to Philosophy (2x; online)

Phil 236: Philosophy of Religion (online)

**AWARDS & GRANTS**

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Professor of Impact Award (ASU, Spring 2023)

Snider Center Dissertation Fellowship (2018—2019)

Cash Prize: Best Graduate Paper, North Carolina Philosophical Society (2014)

**PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES**

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**Peter Carruthers**

Distinguished University Professor of Philosophy

University of Maryland

[pcarruth@umd.edu](mailto:pcarruth@umd.edu)

**Brian Kogelmann**

Assistant Professor, John Chambers College of Business and Economics

West Virginia University

[bkogel89@gmail.com](mailto:bkogel89@gmail.com)

**Tomas Bogardus**

Associate Professor of Philosophy

Pepperdine University

[tomas.bogardus@pepperdine.edu](mailto:tomas.bogardus@pepperdine.edu)

**Tyler Cowen**

Holbert L. Harris Chair of Economics

George Mason University

[tcowen@gmu.edu](mailto:tcowen@gmu.edu)

**Bernard Molyneux**

(Former) Associate Professor of Philosophy

University of California, Davis

[bjmolyneux@ucdavis.edu](mailto:bjmolyneux@ucdavis.edu)

**Anne Ashbaugh**

Professor of Philosophy

Towson University

[aashbaugh@towson.edu](mailto:aashbaugh@towson.edu)

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

1. (2023) Artificial Philosopher Kings: Why Synthetic Socrates Might Be Better than You: *New Mexico Texas Philosophical Society*
2. (2014) Why the Heck Would You Do Philosophy? *North Carolina Philosophical Conference*
3. (2013) Meta-Philosophical Scepticism: *Indiana Philosophical Association*
4. (2013) A Novel Argument for Neural Animalism: *XXIII World Congress of Philosophy*
5. (2013) Why Knowledge Might Not be Factive: *New Mexico West Texas Philosophy Conference*
6. (2012) Sceptical Thoughts on Philosophical Expertise: *Society for Exact Philosophy Conference*
7. (2012) The Immorality of Procreation: *The Aristotelian Society and the Mind Association*
8. (2012) But Theists Do It Too: *Society of Christian Philosophers (Mountain-Pacific) Conference*
9. (2012) Epistemic Access and Zombie Minds: *Intermountain West Student Philosophy Conference*
10. (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)