

Trevor Hedberg

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Education

Ph.D. in Philosophy, University of Tennessee. 2017 (Expected in Spring).

Dissertation: *Population, Consumption, and Procreation: Ethical Implications for Humanity's Future*

Committee: John Nolt (Chair), David Reidy, Jon Garthoff, and Phil Cafaro

M.A. in Philosophy, University of Tennessee. 2013.

Thesis: *Wouldn't Future Generations Like to Know? A Compensation-Based Approach to Global Climate Change*

Committee: John Nolt (Chair), David Reidy, and E. J. Coffman

Technical Communication Program, University of Kansas, 2010.

B.A. in Philosophy and English, *Summa Cum Laude*, Baker University, KS, 2009.

Areas of Specialization: Applied Ethics (esp. Environmental Ethics), Epistemology

Areas of Competence: Ethics, Social and Political Philosophy, Philosophy of Religion

Publications

Articles & Book Chapters

1. "Climate Change, Moral Integrity, and Obligations to Reduce Individual Greenhouse Gas Emissions," forthcoming in Ethics, Policy & Environment.
2. "Appraising Objections to Practical Apatheism" (with Jordan Huzarevich), forthcoming in Philosophia.
3. "How Much Does the Evidence Matter?" forthcoming in Syndicate Philosophy as part of a book symposium on Miriam McCormick's *Believing Against the Evidence*.
4. "Animals, Relations, and the Laissez-Faire Intuition," Environmental Values 25, no. 4 (2016): 427–442.
5. "Unraveling the Asymmetry in Procreative Ethics," APA Newsletter for Philosophy and Medicine 15, no. 2 (2016): 18–21.
6. "Optimizing Hope: A Response to Nolt," in Andrew Brei, ed., *Ecology, Ethics, and Hope* (Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield, 2016), 65-82.
7. "Epistemic Supererogation and Its Implications," Synthese 191, no. 15 (2014): 3621–3637.
8. "The Ethics of Marketing to Vulnerable Populations" (with David Palmer), Journal of Business Ethics 116, no. 2 (2013): 403–413.

Book Reviews

1. Review of Sarah Conly's *One Child: Do We Have a Right to More?* forthcoming in Philosophy East and West.

2. Review of John Nolt's *Environmental Ethics for the Long Term: An Introduction*, forthcoming in Ethics, Policy & Environment.
3. Review of Scott Aikin's *Evidentialism and the Will to Believe* in Teaching Philosophy 38, no. 2 (2015): 246–250.

Works in Progress

1. "Intergenerational Equity and Population Growth" (under revision)
2. "Population, Procreation, and Individual Obligations" (under revision)
3. "Has Human Population Growth Created a Genuine Moral Dilemma?" (in preparation)
4. "Conciliationism and Skepticism about Philosophical Arguments" (in preparation)

Conference Presentations

1. "Intergenerational Equity and Population Growth"
Association for Practical and Professional Ethics Meeting, February 2017.
2. "Unraveling the Asymmetry in Procreative Ethics"
Eastern Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, January 2016.
3. "Restoring Biodiversity as Compensation for Climate Change"
Association for Practical and Professional Ethics Meeting, February 2015.
4. "A Compensation-Based Argument for Geoengineering Research"
International Society for Environmental Ethics Meeting, June 2014.
5. "Integrity, Climate Change, and Individual Obligations to Reduce Emissions"
International Society for Environmental Ethics group session at the Eastern Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, December 2013.
6. "Abortion and Personhood: Can the Infanticide Objection be Eluded?"
Tennessee Philosophical Association Meeting, November 2012.
7. "The Asymmetry: No Solution Needed" (poster presentation)
Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, August 2012.
8. "The Question We Should Be Asking about God's Existence" (sole presenter; paper coauthored with Jordan Huzarevich)
Appalachian Regional Student Philosophy Colloquium, March 2012.
9. "Greater Knowledge in a Warmer World"
Association for Practical and Professional Ethics Meeting, March 2012.
10. "Moral Worth and Other-Regarding Inclinations"
Southeast Philosophy Congress, February 2012; published in the Proceedings of the Southeast Philosophy Congress, vol. 5 (2012): 85-98.
11. "Epistemic Supererogation and Its Implications"
Appalachian Regional Student Philosophy Colloquium, March 2011.
12. "Imperiled Newborn Cases and the Limits of Parental Responsibility"
Association for Practical and Professional Ethics Meeting, March 2011.
13. "The Circumstances of Justice and the Role of Justice as Fairness"
Tennessee Philosophical Association Meeting, November 2010.

Invited Lectures

1. "Apatheism: Uncharted Territory in Philosophy of Religion"
University of Tennessee Chattanooga, November 2013.

Conference Commentaries

1. Comments on Luke Semrau’s “Misplaced Paternalism and Other Mistakes in the Debate Over Kidney Sales”
Tennessee Philosophical Association Meeting, November 2016
2. Comments on Scott Aiken’s *Evidentialism and the Will to Believe*
Tennessee Philosophical Association Meeting, November 2014
3. Comments on Sergio Gallegos’ “Aesthetic Virtues in Environmental Virtue Ethics”
International Society for Environmental Ethics Meeting, June 2014
4. Comments on Martin Benjamin’s “Responding to Marx (Groucho, Not Karl) on Obligations to Posterity”
Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, March 2013.
5. Comments on Matthew Pianalto’s “Beyond Waiting”
Tennessee Philosophical Association Meeting, November 2012.
6. Comments on Karl Hammer’s “Kant’s vegetarian imperative”
Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, August 2012.
7. Comments on Charles Cardwell’s “Justice versus fairness”
Tennessee Philosophical Association Meeting, November 2010.

Honors and Awards

1. Prados Summer Dissertation Fellowship, University of Tennessee, Summer 2016.
2. Newcombe Dissertation Fellowship Finalist, Woodrow Wilson Foundation, 2016.
3. Graduate Travel Stipend for the Eastern Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, 2016.
4. Prados Summer Dissertation Fellowship, University of Tennessee, Summer 2015.
5. Chancellor’s Award for Extraordinary Professional Promise, University of Tennessee, 2014.
6. Richard Aquila Prize for Best Graduate Student Essay, University of Tennessee, Department of Philosophy, 2013-2014.
7. Karen M. T. Muskavitch Award for Graduate Work in Practical Ethics for “Greater Knowledge in a Warmer World,” awarded at the 2012 meeting of the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics.
8. Best Graduate Student Paper Award for “Epistemic Supererogation and Its Implications,” awarded at the 2011 Appalachian Regional Student Philosophy Colloquium.
9. University of Kansas Award for Outstanding Technical Writing, 2011.
10. J. Wallace and Katie Dean Graduate Fellowship, University of Tennessee, 2010–11.

Teaching Experience

University of Tennessee, Primary Instructor

Professional Responsibility	Fall 2015, Spring 2015, Fall 2014, Fall 2013, Summer 2012
Contemporary Moral Problems	Spring 2017, Spring 2013, Fall 2012, Summer 2011
Introduction to Philosophy	Spring 2016, Spring 2014

Oak Ridge Institute for Continued Learning, Primary Instructor

Why Do Good People Do Bad Things? Spring 2017

University of Tennessee, Teaching Assistant

Contemporary Moral Problems Fall 2016, Spring 2012, Fall 2011, Fall 2010
Environmental Ethics Spring 2011

Baker University, Teaching Assistant

Human Sexuality Spring 2008

Professional Development

- Safe Zone Training, University of Tennessee Diversity Matters Coalition, Fall 2016.
- Graduate Seminar on Teaching Practical and Professional Ethics, Association for Practical and Professional Ethics Meeting, March 2011.
- Best Practices in Teaching Program, University of Tennessee, Fall 2010.

Service

Profession

- Referee for *Neuroethics* and *Erkenntnis*.
- Reviewer for Philosophers' Cocoon Conference (2015–2016) and Association for Practical and Professional Ethics Meeting (2017).
- Book Proposal Reviewer, Oxford University Press, 2014.
- Assistant Webmaster for <http://www.enviroethics.org/> (official website of the International Society for Environmental Ethics), 2012–2013.
- Session Chair at Conferences
 - 2017 Eastern Division Eastern Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, International Society for Environmental Ethics Group Session
 - 2016 Tennessee Value and Agency Conference
 - 2016 Eastern Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, International Society for Environmental Ethics Group Sessions (x2)

University of Tennessee

- Strategic Plan Update Committee (Diversity and Inclusion Priority Group), 2016–2017.
- Undergraduate Mentor, University of Tennessee Humanities Center, 2015–2016.
- Graduate Student Senate Secretary, 2014–2015.
- Philosophy Department Representative to the Graduate Student Senate, 2014–2015 and 2016–2017.
- Research Assistant for David Palmer (Assistant Professor of Philosophy), Summer 2013.
- Conference Assistant, Tennessee Value and Agency Conference, November 2012.
- President, Philosophy Graduate Student Association, 2012–2014.
- Graduate Student Representative, Philosophy Department Graduate Committee, 2011–2012.
- Author, “Database of Philosophy Conferences in the U.S.” Hosted on philosophy.utk.edu 2011–2016.
- Author, “Graduate School in Philosophy: The Application Process.” Hosted on philosophy.utk.edu 2010–2016.

Outreach

- Judge, East Tennessee High School Ethics Bowl, 2013–2016.
- Organizer and Case Writer, East Tennessee High School Ethics Bowl, 2011.

Public Media

1. Interviewed by Lisa Marie Potter for *Inside Science News Service* for “The Ethics of Marketing Cancer Treatments,” 4/22/2015, <http://www.insidescience.org/content/ethics-marketing-cancer-treatments/2786>.
2. Interviewed with Tom Johnson by Daria Kerridge regarding research on climate change, KOPN 89.5 fm, Columbia, MO, aired 10/14/2014 (part 1) and 10/28/2014 (part 2).
3. Interviewed by Daria Kerridge regarding research in environmental ethics, KOPN 89.5 fm, Columbia, MO, aired 11/28/2013.
4. Interviewed by Sean Phillips for Nooga.com regarding a presentation on apatheism held at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, 11/7/2013, <http://www.nooga.com/164154/apatheism-should-we-care-whether-god-exists/>.

Professional Affiliations

- American Philosophical Association
- International Society for Environmental Ethics
- Association of Practical and Professional Ethics
- Tennessee Philosophical Association
- American Association of Philosophy Teachers

Graduate Coursework (* = Independent Study)University of Tennessee

Statistics for Research I	James Schmidhammer	Fall 2015
Philosophy of Conservation Biology*	John Nolt	Spring 2014
Reasons and Rationality*	Adam Cureton	Fall 2013
Skepticism and Naturalism in Hume	Marcus Kohl	Fall 2013
Moral Obligation	Jon Garthoff	Spring 2013
Value in Nature	John Nolt	Fall 2012
Ethics, Action, and Responsibility	David Palmer	Fall 2012
Animals, Ethics, and Law	John Nolt	Spring 2012
Global Justice and Human Rights	David Reidy	Spring 2012
Freedom Research Seminar	E. J. Coffman	Fall-Spring 2011
Incomparability, Value Pluralism, and Moral Decision	John Nolt	Fall 2011
Intermediate Formal Logic	John Nolt	Fall 2011
Kant’s Ethics	Adam Cureton	Fall 2011
Plato	J. Clerk Shaw	Spring 2011
Advanced Survey of Epistemology	E. J. Coffman	Spring 2011
History of Ethics	Glenn Graber	Spring 2011
Intergenerational Ethics	John Nolt	Fall 2010
The Ethics of Belief	E. J. Coffman	Fall 2010
Rawls	David Reidy	Fall 2010

University of Kansas

Advanced Technical Writing (Content Creation)	Chris McKitterick	Spring 2010
Advanced Technical Editing (Content Revision)	Chris McKitterick	Spring 2010
Medical Ethics: Life and Death Issues	Don Marquis	Fall 2009

References

John Nolt, Interim Department Co-Head and Professor of Philosophy, University of Tennessee

Office Phone: 865-974-7218 Email: nolt@utk.edu

David Reidy, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, University of Tennessee

Office Phone: 865-974-7210 Email: dreidy@utk.edu

E.J. Coffman, Lindsay Young Professor of Philosophy, University of Tennessee

Office Phone: 865-974-3255 Email: ecoffma1@utk.edu

David Palmer, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, University of Tennessee

Office Phone: 865-974-7215 Email: dpalmer6@utk.edu

Scott Aikin, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Vanderbilt University

Office Phone: 615-343-5519 Email: scott.f.aikin@vanderbilt.edu

Melinda Roberts, Professor and Chair of the Department of Philosophy, Religious Studies, and Classical Studies, College of New Jersey

Office Phone: 609-771-2360 Email: robertsm@tcnj.edu

Dissertation Abstract

Human population growth is a contributing factor to a number of environmental crises, most notably climate change and biodiversity loss. My dissertation addresses both the negative environmental effects of human population growth and what ought to be done to curtail them. Specifically, I defend two main claims: (1) we have a duty to reduce human population, particularly those of us with large ecological footprints, and (2) morally permissible social policies can satisfy this duty.

I begin by addressing three well-known issues in population ethics that could serve as the basis for objections to reducing population: the Repugnant Conclusion, the Non-Identity Problem, and the Asymmetry. I then criticize several arguments supporting the claim that we ought not to reproduce *at all* and likewise dismiss the position that everyone has a right to reproduce as much as they please. This groundwork establishes that the correct view about the ethics of procreation must lie in the complicated middle ground between these positions – the middle ground that I explore in conjunction with the harmful effects of rising human population.

After surveying the environmental harms caused by rising human population (focusing in detail on effects caused by climate change and biodiversity loss), I argue that we have a collective duty to reduce human population in order to avoid causing catastrophic harm to future people. While we could attempt to reduce environmental degradation by reducing our rates of environmentally harmful consumption, it is not possible to do so rapidly enough to avoid environmental catastrophe: we must reduce human population as well.

Of course, before human population can be reduced, its growth must be halted. The remainder of the dissertation focuses on what policies might be implemented in the near term to slow population growth and whether these policies could be implemented in ways that are not profoundly unjust or otherwise unethical. Recent attempts to reduce population have frequently

resulted in practices of forced sterilization, involuntary abortions, and sex selection. Moreover, since the areas of the world with the highest population growth are generally developing nations in Africa and Asia, there is also a deep worry that significant restrictions on procreative freedom would be deeply racist in application. I argue that some minimally coercive policies (e.g., tax breaks for smaller families) need not lead to such objectionable outcomes.

I close the dissertation by considering the ethics of individual procreative decision-making. On the basis of maintaining moral integrity and taking the harms of overpopulation seriously, I argue that couples generally ought to avoid having more than two children even in the absence of policies incentivizing this behavior and even when they live in parts of the world where their individual ecological footprints are relatively small.