

MICHAEL VAZQUEZ

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EMPLOYMENT

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Teaching Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy

July 2020 - Present

Director of Outreach, Parr Center for Ethics

July 2020 - Present

University of Pennsylvania, Graduate School of Education

Lecturer, Mid-Career Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership

July 2020-Present

EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania

2015 - 2020

Ph.D., Philosophy

Dissertation: *Practical Reasoning in Stoic Ethics*

Committee: Susan Sauvé Meyer (supervisor), Sukaina Hirji, Jacob Klein, Errol Lord

University of Pennsylvania

2014 - 2015

Post-Baccalaureate Program in Classical Studies

Villanova University

2010 - 2014

B.A. *summa cum laude*, Philosophy and Humanities

Phi Beta Kappa

University of Oxford, Blackfriars Hall

2013

Visiting Student, Classical Philosophy

INTERESTS

AOS: Ancient Greek & Roman Philosophy, Ethics, Philosophy of Education

AOC: Kant, Logic, Political Philosophy

RESEARCH

PUBLICATIONS

- [8] **Does Studying Philosophy Make People Better Thinkers?** (with Michael Prinzing)

Journal of the American Philosophical Association (forthcoming)

- [7] **Kant's Rejection of Stoic Eudaimonism**

in *Kant and Stoic Ethics*, ed. Melissa Merritt (Oxford University Press, 2024)

- [6] **Case-Based Reasoning in Educational Ethics: *Phronēsis* and Epistemic Blinders** (with

Dustin Webster) *Educational Theory* 74, no. 3 (June 2024)

- [5] **The Virtues of Ethics Bowl: Do Pre-College Philosophy Programs Prepare Students for Democratic Citizenship?** (with Michael Prinzing)

Journal of Philosophy in Schools 10, no. 1 (2023): 25-45

<https://doi.org/10.46707/jps.v10i1.181>

- [4] **The Black Box in Stoic Axiology**
Pacific Philosophical Quarterly 104 (2023): 78-100
<https://doi.org/10.1111/papq.12399>
- [3] **Ciceronian *Officium* and Kantian Duty** (with Andree Hahmann)
Review of Metaphysics 75, no. 4 (2022): 667-706
<http://doi.org/10.1353/rvm.2022.0022>
- [2] **How Can a Line Segment with Extension be Composed of Extensionless Points? From Aristotle to Borel, and Beyond** (with Brian Reese and Scott Weinstein)
Synthese 200, no. 85 (2022): 1-28
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11229-022-03538-9>
- [1] **Hopeless Fools and Impossible Ideals**
Res Philosophica 98, no. 3 (2021): 429-451
<https://doi.org/10.11612/resphil.2061>

BOOK REVIEWS

- Tobias Reinhardt, *Cicero's Academic libri and Lucullus: A Commentary with Introduction and Translations* (Oxford University Press, 2022)
Bryn Mawr Classical Review (Nov. 2023; [available here](#))

EDITED VOLUME UNDER REVIEW

- *Cicero as Philosopher: Interpretation and Legacy* (co-edited volume with Andree Hahmann; comprises an Introduction and 19 chapters on Cicero's philosophy and legacy)

PUBLIC WRITING

- [4] **The Future of Humanities is Public** (with Kari Lindquist, Delaney Thull, Aurora Yu)
 Op-ed in EdNC (Mar. 2023; [available here](#))
- [3] **Looking for a better way to disagree this election season? Look no further than your local high school** (with Alex Richardson)
 Op-ed in EdNC (Nov. 2022; [available here](#))
- [2] **Deliberating Across the Lifespan**
 Chapter in *The Ethics Bowl Way: Answering Questions, Questioning Answers, and Creating Ethical Communities* (Rowman and Littlefield 2022; [publisher's page](#))
- [1] **Ethics Bowl and Democratic Deliberation**
 Blog post in *APA Syllabus Showcase* (Mar. 2022; [available here](#))

OTHER RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

- [4] Principal Investigator (Lead PI with Michael Prinzing), "Can Ethics Education Programs Increase Adolescent Intellectual Humility?" (John Templeton Foundation, 2023-2026)
- [3] Principal Investigator (Lead PI with Michael Prinzing), "The Development of Intellectual Traits During College" (AY 23-24)
- [2] Project Consultant, "The Recipe for Wisdom: Identifying Predictors, Outcomes, and Interventions for Promoting Humility and Openness to New Information" (PIs: Cory Clark & Philip Tetlock, University of Pennsylvania; 2023-2025)

- [1] Principal Investigator (Lead PI with Michael Prinzing), National High School Ethics Bowl Impact Study: Effects on Intellectual and Civic Virtue (AY 22-23)

CONFERENCE PAPERS & INVITED TALKS

- [9] **Kant’s Rejection of Stoic Eudaimonism**
- Kant and Stoic Ethics Workshop at UNSW Sydney (May 2023)
- [8] **Comments on “Stoic Conservatism”**
- American Philosophical Association, Eastern Division Annual Meeting (Jan. 2023)
- [7] **Commitment without Conviction: Cicero’s Skeptical Eudaimonism**
- Boston Area Colloquium in Ancient Philosophy (competitive proposal process; AY 24-25)
 - Duke-UNC Ancient Philosophy Works in Progress Workshop (Apr. 2023)
 - Departmental Philosophy Colloquium, Nanyang Technological University (May 2022)
 - Ancient Philosophy Symposium in Honor of Susan Sauvé Meyer, University of Pennsylvania (Apr. 2022)
- [6] **Zeno Peripateticus? Cicero’s Rhetorical Philosophy in *De Officiis***
- Meeting of the Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy, Society for Classical Studies Annual Meeting (Jan. 2020)
- [5] **Hopeless Fools and Impossible Ideals**
- Philosophy in 15 Minutes at UNC-CH (Sept. 2021; [recording available here](#))
 - Penn Normative Philosophy Group (Dec. 2019)
- [4] **Cicero and the Origins of Moral Duty**
- Panel, “Cicero as *Translator*, Cicero as *Interpreter*,” Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy Annual Meeting at Christopher Newport University (Nov. 2019)
- [3] **The Black Box in Stoic Axiology**
- Hellenistic Philosophy Society Panel on Stoic Ethics, American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting (Apr. 2019; version title: “*Cum officio selectio*: A Proposal for Stoic Practical Reasoning”)
 - Princeton University Classical Philosophy Works-in-Progress Workshop Series (Dec. 2018)
- [2] **The Normative Hippocratic Doctor: Moral Motivation in Ancient Medical Ethics**
- 35th annual meeting of the Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy, Fordham University (Oct. 2017)
- [1] ***Quo Warranto?* Real Definition and the Euthyphro Argument**
- 34th annual meeting of the Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy, Fordham University (Oct. 2016)

HONORS & FELLOWSHIPS

- Departmental Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching by a Faculty Member 2023
Inaugural recipient of the Departmental Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching by a Faculty Member, awarded by UNC Philosophy
- Office of the Provost Engaged Scholarship Award for Teaching 2023
University-wide award to recognize extraordinary public service, including responsiveness to community concerns and strong community partnerships, at UNC-Chapel Hill
- RJ Reynolds Foundation Junior Faculty Development Award 2023
Competitive early career research fund of \$10,000, awarded by the Provost's Office and the Committee on Faculty Research and Scholarly Leave at UNC-CH
- Provost's Graduate Academic Engagement Fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania 2019 - 2021
Inaugural recipient of two-year teaching and research fellowship and research fund, awarded to two doctoral students across the university for publicly engaged scholarship
- School of Arts and Sciences Graduate Dean's Scholar 2019
Awarded at the University of Pennsylvania to nine graduate students per year who "exhibit exceptional academic performance and intellectual promise"
- George W. M. Bacon Fellow 2016 - 2017
Penn School of Arts and Sciences year-long research fellowship
- Collegium Institute for Catholic Thought & Culture Graduate Fellow 2015 - 2020
Participation in monthly colloquia, specialized reading groups, and access to research funds
- Benjamin Franklin Doctoral Fellowship 2015-2020
Five-year fellowship for doctoral research

GRANTS

- Does Philosophy Make Students Better Thinkers? 2024-2025
American Philosophical Association Small Grant awarded to use data collected by the Higher Education Research Institute to investigate whether studying philosophy help students to become better thinkers, examining traits like reflectiveness, open-mindedness, and critical thinking.
With Michael Prinzing, Thomas Metcalf, Geoff Sayre-McCord, Luc Bovens
Award Amount = \$2,725
- Can Ethics Education Programs Increase Adolescent Intellectual Humility? 2023-2025
John Templeton Foundation grant to study the impact of the National High School Ethics Bowl and ethics pedagogy in schools on the cultivation of intellectual virtue
Co-directed with Michael Prinzing
Award Amount = \$25,000
- Educating for Intellectual Virtue 2023
Institute for the Arts and Humanities Fixed-Term Faculty Support Fund grant for assessing the pedagogical impact of our Parr + TED-Ed ethical dilemma series
Award Amount = \$1,000

- Political Neutrality in the Classroom: What is it and Should I Value it? 2022
Humanities for the Public Good Critical Issues Project Award to fund a state-wide professional development program for educators centered on the challenges and opportunities posed by America's epistemic crisis
 Co-directed with Paula McAvoy & Alex Worsnip
 Award Amount = \$1,650
- Stoic Tragedy & the Sources of Human Ethics 2022
Awarded by the Committee on Classics in the Community, this award supports an interdisciplinary collaboration to host an intergenerational event centered on a student-led performance of Senecan tragedy followed by philosophical discussion.
 Co-directed with Al Duncan & Aurora Yu
 Award Amount = \$1,500
- Reading Ancient Tragedy 2022
Humanities for the Public Good Critical Issues Project Award to fund a discussion group on Greco-Roman tragedy, in partnership with Flyleaf Books.
 Co-directed with Aurora Yu
 Award Amount = \$450
- NHSEBridge: Promoting Student Access and Equity in the National High School Ethics Bowl 2022
American Philosophical Association Diversity and Inclusiveness grant awarded to support NHSEBridge, a program that specifically targets underserved communities and under-resourced schools who may not otherwise have access to the National High School Ethics Bowl's academic, social, and civic benefits
 Co-directed with Alex Richardson
 Award Amount = \$10,000
- Dialogue and Transformation: Bringing Philosophy to Juvenile Justice Educators 2022
American Philosophical Association Small Grant awarded to expand our existing Juvenile Justice Outreach Program's capacity by launching a new pilot program to "teach the teachers" and equip Juvenile Justice educators with the skills, knowledge, and strategies needed to incorporate philosophy into their curricula and classrooms
 Co-directed with Geoffrey Sayre-McCord & Z Quanbeck
 Award Amount = \$2,000
- Dialogue & Transformation: Bringing Philosophy to Juvenile Justice Centers 2021
Humanities for the Public Good Critical Issues Project Award to fund student and teacher-facing efforts to integrate philosophy and university resources in Juvenile Justice education programs across North Carolina
 Co-directed with Geoffrey Sayre-McCord
 Award Amount = \$7,925
- Ancient Wisdom 2020-2021
Society for Classical Studies Classics Everywhere Award to fund, a text-centered philosophy discussion group offered in partnership with Orange County's Department on Aging
 Award Amount = \$400

TEACHING

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Undergraduate Teaching

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| Ethics Research Seminar for Undergraduates | <i>Fall 2023</i> |
| Philosophy Across the Lifespan | <i>Spring 2023</i> |
| Moral and Philosophical Issues in Education | <i>Fall 2022</i> |
| Philosophy Across the Lifespan | <i>Spring 2022</i> |
| Ethics Bowl & Democratic Deliberation | <i>Fall 2021</i> |
| Directed Readings: Cicero's Moral and Political Philosophy | <i>Fall 2021</i> |
| Intergenerational Philosophy | <i>Spring 2021</i> |
| Ethics Bowl & Democratic Deliberation | <i>Fall 2020</i> |

Undergraduate Advising

- Honors Thesis Supervisor, Katie Leonard (attention and unselfing) (Fall 2021 - Spring 2022)
- Honors Thesis Committee Member, Tara Murray (Aristotle and motherhood) (Spring 2022)
- Honors Thesis Supervisor, Anna Fiore (radicalization and the ethics of belief) (Fall 2021 - Spring 2022)
- Honors Thesis Committee Member, Liam Bendezu (political liberalism and religious education) (Spring 2021)

University of Pennsylvania, Graduate School of Education

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| Advanced Issues in Educational Leadership | <i>Fall 2023</i> |
| Social Foundations of Education | <i>Summer 2023</i> |
| Social Foundations of Education | <i>Summer 2022</i> |
| Social Foundations of Education | <i>Summer 2021</i> |
| Social Foundations of Education | <i>Summer 2020</i> |

University of Pennsylvania, Undergraduate Teaching

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| History of Ancient Philosophy (Co-taught with Matthew Solomon) | <i>Summer 2020</i> |
| Public Philosophy & Civic Engagement | <i>Spring 2020</i> |

University of Pennsylvania, Teaching Assistant

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| Philosophy of Education: Teaching Philosophy in Middle Schools | <i>Fall 2018</i> |
| Introduction to Philosophy (Online) | <i>Summer 2018</i> |
| History of Modern Philosophy | <i>Spring 2018</i> |
| The Social Contract | <i>Fall 2017</i> |
| Logic and Formal Reasoning | <i>Spring 2017</i> |
| History of Ancient Philosophy (funded by S.A.I.L. grant) | <i>Fall 2016</i> |
| Plato and his Predecessors (Online) | <i>Summer 2016</i> |
| Aristotle and his Successors (Online) | <i>Summer 2016</i> |

Additional Experience

- Penn Center for Teaching & Learning, Teaching Certificate (Spring 2020)
5 Pedagogy Workshops, Observation & Review, and Teaching Philosophy
- Penn Center for Teaching & Learning, Structured Active In-Class Learning Training (Fall 2016)
- 150+ hours tutoring in Ancient Greek, Latin, and Philosophy (Wyzant, Varsity Tutors, Chegg)

PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY

TALKS ON PEDAGOGY & PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY

[14] **Stoic Tragedy and the Sources of Human Ethics**

Invited panelist on public humanities projects at the Society for Classical Studies Annual Meeting (Jan. 2024)

- [13] **Reflections on Engaged Philosophy**
Invited remarks on academically based community service for the Netter Center Alumni Community Engaged Scholarship Symposium at the University of Pennsylvania (Apr. 2023)
- [12] **Philosophy in the Science Classroom**
Co-organized session introducing educators to philosophical reflection as a vehicle for inquiry-based learning in the science classroom and for more diverse and equitable student engagement with science, for the Morehead Planetarium Science for All Summit. (Apr. 2023)
- [11] **Moral Dilemmas in Educational Ethics**
Invited speaker for a public roundtable aimed at educators and hosted by the Philosophy Learning & Teaching Organization (Jan. 2023)
- [10] **Intergenerational Ethics**
Invited discussant for plenary session on multi-generational philosophy, 2022 PLATO Conference: Ethics in Schools, Communities, and the Public Sphere, University of Washington (Jun. 2022)
- [9] **Fostering Collaborative Ethics Discussions in the Secondary-Grades Classroom**
Co-organized workshop, 2022 PLATO Conference: Ethics in Schools, Communities, and the Public Sphere, University of Washington (Jun. 2022)
- [8] **Philosophy in the Ancient Language Classroom**
Co-organized workshop, “Primary Sources for Youth,” 2022 PLATO Conference: Ethics in Schools, Communities, and the Public Sphere, University of Washington (Jun. 2022)
- [7] **Philosophy as a Vehicle for Intergenerational Dialogue**
AAPT-APA Teaching Hub session on Intergenerational Philosophy, Eastern Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association (Jan. 2022; virtual)
- [6] **Deliberative Practice for the Public Sector**
Co-organized panel, 6th Public Philosophy Network Conference: “Engagement, Policy, and Practice” (Oct. 2021; virtual)
- [5] **Community-Engaged Pedagogy & Intergenerational Encounter**
Paper, Engagement Scholarship Consortium Annual Meeting: Creating Connections and Expanding Possibilities (Sept. 2021; virtual)
- [4] **Discursive Practices in the Classroom**
Invited panelist, “Facilitating and Evaluating Public Discourse,” Inaugural UNC Faculty Symposium on Deliberative Pedagogy (May 2021; [recording available here](#))
- [3] **Putting Ethics Bowl to Work: Dialogical Pedagogy for Professional Ethics Ed**
Co-organized panel, 30th Annual Association for Practical and Professional Ethics Conference (Feb. 2021; [recording available here](#))
- [2] **Ethics Bowl in the Classroom: Perspectives on Dialogical Pedagogy for Ethics and Civics Education**
AAPT-APA Teaching Hub session organized by the National High School Ethics Bowl, 2021 Eastern Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association (Jan. 2021; virtual)
- [1] **Service-Learning, Moral Philosophy, and Civic Engagement**
Co-organized panel on “Models of Philosophical Engagement with K-12 Students,” Philosophy of Education Society Annual Meeting (Mar. 2020)

PUBLIC TALKS

- [13] **An Ethical Toolkit for the next Generation of STEM Leaders**
Keynote speaker for the 2023 Ethics & Leadership Conference at the North Carolina School of Science & Mathematics
- [12] **Ethics for Public Administration**
Invited talk to all first-year MPA students in the UNC School of Government (Sept. 2023)
- [11] **Learning from Local Teachers: A Dialogue on Classroom Deliberation**
Organized panel with NC educators who have used the National High School Ethics Bowl as a vehicle for civic education and dialogue across disagreement. (Feb. 2023)
- [10] **Stoicism and Its Legacies**
Seminar for Carolina Public Humanities, in three parts: (1) Stoic Philosophers and their Place in the Ancient Greco-Roman World, (2) The Uses of Stoicism from Cicero to Kant to Silicon Valley, (3) Why has Stoicism Attracted Adherents throughout Western Cultural History? (Jun. 2022)
- [9] **The Power of the Humanities in Prison and Juvenile Justice Education**
With the Assistant Superintendent of NC Prison Education Services, UNC's Director of Correctional Education, and an alumnus of UNC prison ed (Mar. 2022; [recording available here](#))
- [8] **Ethics in the Workplace**
Two-hour professional development seminar, sponsored by UNC Human Resources, on how to analyze, discuss, and navigate ethical dilemmas that arise in the workplace (Jan. 2022)
- [7] **Dialogical Strategies for Ethics and Civics Pedagogy**
National Council for Social Studies Podcast (Recorded Dec. 2021)
- [6] **Middle School Ethics Bowl and Deliberative Pedagogy**
Presentation to pre-service teachers enrolled in Prof. Suzanne Gullledge's EDUC 617 ("Teaching in Middle School") at UNC-CH (Oct. 2021)
- [5] **Why You Should Be an Epicurean; The Aims of Education; What Must I Believe?**
Three talks delivered as part of the inaugural Galloway Ridge-UNC Agora Lecture Series (Fall 2021)
- [4] **The Importance of Ethics**
Presentation at the International High School Philosophy Conference @ NYU (Sept. 2021)
- [3] **Engaged Scholarship and Professional Philosophy**
Talk on engaged scholarship delivered to the Fontaine Fellows at Penn (Oct. 2020)
- [2] **What do Ancient Philosophers Know about Morality?**
Presentation to the Penn Undergraduate Philosophy Society (Mar. 2019)
- [1] **Is there a Moral Duty to Adopt?**
Talk delivered as part of the University of Pennsylvania Graduate Colloquium Series (Apr. 2018)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Research Committee Chair, Philosophy Learning and Teaching Organization (Fall 2022 - Present)
Academic Advisory Board, Philosophy Learning and Teaching Organization (Spring 2022 - Present)
Executive Committee, Middle School Ethics Bowl (Kent Place School) (Fall 2021 - Present)
Committee on Public Philosophy, American Philosophical Association (Jul. 2021 - Jun. 2024)

Advocacy Committee (lobbying state boards of education for philosophy in K-12 curricula), Philosophy Learning and Teaching Organization (Fall 2020 - Spring 2022)

Executive Committee, National High School Ethics Bowl (Jul. 2020 - Present)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Co-Organizer, Duke-UNC Ancient Philosophy WIP Series (with Wenjin Liu) (Fall 2022 - Present)

Co-Organizer, Online Workshop Series on Cicero's Philosophy (Feb. 2022 - Apr. 2022)

Faculty Affiliate, Program for Public Discourse at UNC-Chapel Hill (Jul. 2021 - Present)

Organizer & Chair, Penn Project for Philosophy for the Young Inaugural Group Session at the Eastern APA, "Models of Dialogue between the Academy and the Community" (Jan. 2020)

Assistant Organizer, Anscombe Archive Conference on Mind and Action at the University of Pennsylvania (Apr. 2019)

Editing for *Virtue, Happiness, and Knowledge: Themes from the Work of Gail Fine and Terence Irwin*, ed. D. Brink, S. Meyer, and C. Shields (Clarendon Press, 2018)

Editing for *Plato: Laws 1 and 2 Translated with Commentary by Susan Sauvé Meyer*, Clarendon Plato Series (Oxford University Press, 2015)

Assistant Organizer, Penn Reasons and Foundations of Epistemology Conference (PeRFECT4) on the Epistemology of the Normative (Nov. 2018)

Research Fellow, Penn Positive Psychology, "Philosophy and Well-Being: A Meeting of the Humanities and Human Flourishing Project" (Summer 2018)

Co-organizer, Fourth Annual Penn Ancient Workshop: Lucretius' *De rerum natura* (Apr. 2016)

Organizer & Facilitator, Philadelphia Futures After-School Philosophy Club (2016 - 2017)

Co-organizer, Penn Philosophy Ancient Greek Reading Group (2015-2020)

Co-organizer, Collegium Institute Koine Greek Weekly Workshop (2015 - 2017)

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Search Committee Chair, Teaching Assistant Professor of Philosophy, UNC-Chapel Hill (AY 23-24)

Search Committee Member, Postdoctoral Fellow in Grant Operations Management and Creative Engagement, UNC College of Arts & Sciences (Summer 2023)

College AI Committee (on use of generative AI by faculty and students), UNC College of Arts & Sciences (Summer 2023)

Selection Committee Member, Maynard Adams Fellowship for the Public Humanities, Carolina Public Humanities (Fall 2022, Fall 2023)

Undergraduate Committee, UNC Department of Philosophy (2021-2022)

Search Committee Member, Administrative Support Associate, Parr Center for Ethics (Fall 2021)

Graduate Representative to the Faculty, Penn Philosophy (2018 - 2019)

REFERENCES

Susan Sauvé Meyer

Professor of Philosophy
University of Pennsylvania
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Sarah Stroud

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University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
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Jacob Klein

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Colgate University
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