

Aidan Elise Kestigian

University Address

Miner Hall 223B
Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life
Tufts University
Medford, MA, USA 02155

Online

Email: aidan.kestigian@tufts.edu
Website: aidankestigian.wordpress.com

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Program Manager, Tufts University April 2018 - present
Metric Geometry & Gerrymandering Group
Strategic planning, public outreach, and academic program design (including instruction).
Science, Technology, & Society Program
Curriculum design, program organization, and program assessment.

EDUCATION

Doctorate of Philosophy, Logic, Computation, and Methodology August 2018
Department of Philosophy, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, USA
Dissertation Title: “Democratic Voting and the Common Good”
Dissertation Committee: Dr. Danielle Wenner (CMU; Chair), Dr. Alex John London (CMU),
Dr. Victoria Shineman (UPitt)

Master of Science, Logic, Computation, and Methodology January 2015
Department of Philosophy, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, USA
Thesis Title: “Voting in Epistemic Democracies”
Thesis Committee: Dr. Kevin Zollman (CMU; Chair), Dr. Danielle Wenner (CMU)

Bachelor of Arts, Philosophy and Mathematics, *summa cum laude* May 2012
Wheaton College, Norton, MA, USA
Honors: Phi Beta Kappa, Departmental Honors in Philosophy

AREAS OF RESEARCH SPECIALIZATION

Social & Political Philosophy (especially Democratic Theory), Applied Ethics, Voting Theory

ADDITIONAL AREAS OF TEACHING COMPETENCE

Normative Ethics, American Electoral Behavior, Logic

PUBLICATIONS

***Aidan Kestigian**. “Freedom as Non-Domination in Behavioral and Biomedical Research.” Forthcoming in *Research Ethics*.

***Aidan Kestigian**. (2017). “Blogging as Practice in Applied Philosophy.” *Teaching Philosophy*. 40.2, 181-200.

***Aidan Kestigian** and Alex John London. (2016). “Adversaries at the Bedside: Advance Care Plans and Future Welfare.” *Bioethics*. 30.8, 557-567.

* Indicates primary authorship.

DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

Democratic Voting and the Common Good

Proponents of deliberative democracy believe that political communities should make decisions through public discussion rather than mere majority voting. This project will focus on two claims deliberative democrats make to argue for deliberative systems, and will ask whether those claims can be substantiated. The first claim is that groups that participate in public deliberation before voting are more likely to select policies that promote the common good than those who do not deliberate. I will argue that this claim lacks justification, and therefore we cannot accept it as a reason to implement deliberative democratic structures in real political systems. The second claim says that deliberation is morally required for public decision making because the act of deliberating has moral worth, while the act of voting does not. But as I will argue, the normative principles that underlie deliberation give moral weight to voting as well. This shows that deliberative democrats are committed to the claim that the act of voting has moral value. As a result, we should question the strong empirical and normative distinctions deliberative democrats draw between deliberation and voting procedures.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

“Bridge Technologies and the Hazards of Sequential Decision Making,” co-authored with Alex John London

“Does Deliberation Improve Voting? A Systematic Review”

AWARDS

Carnegie Mellon University Graduate Student Teaching Award 2018

Dietrich College of Humanities and Social Sciences Graduate Student Teaching Award 2017
Carnegie Mellon University

Grace F. Shepard Phi Beta Kappa Scholarship 2012
Wheaton College

Holcombe M. Austin Prize in Philosophy 2012
Wheaton College

PRESENTATIONS

- “Requiring Advance Care Plans” March 2018
Conference: Second Annual PPE Society Meeting
Location: New Orleans, LA, USA
- “Using Blogs in the Political Theory Classroom” February 2017
Conference: American Political Science Association Teaching & Learning Conference
Location: Long Beach, CA, USA
- “Voting to Promote the Common Good” November 2016
Conference: Northeastern Political Science Association Annual Meeting
Location: Boston, MA, USA
- “Blogging as Practice in Applied Philosophy” October 2016
Conference: Carnegie Mellon University Teaching & Learning Summit
Location: Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, USA
- “(In)Equality in the American Political System: A Case Study in Group Blogging”
1. Seminar: Exploring Educational Technologies and Their Pedagogical Applications March 2016
Organized by the Eberly Center for Teaching Excellence
Location: Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, USA
2. Technology-Enhanced Learning (TEL) Summer School May 2016
Location: Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, USA
- “Freedom as Non-Domination in Behavioral and Biomedical Research” March 2016
Conference: American Philosophical Association Central Meeting 2016
Location: Chicago, IL, USA
- “Reliable Decision Making in Epistemic Democracies” June 2015
Conference: Decisions, Games, and Logic
Location: London School of Economics and Political Science, London, UK
- “Adversaries at the Bedside: Present Choice and Future Welfare”
1. Conference: University of Miami Graduate Student Conference in Philosophy October 2014
Location: University of Miami, Miami, FL, USA
2. Conference: BGSU Graduate Workshop in Applied Philosophy November 2014
Location: Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH, USA
- “Rational Decision Making in Deliberative Democracies” November 2014
Conference: Northeastern Political Science Association Annual Meeting
Location: Boston, MA, USA

ADDITIONAL CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Response to Zoë Johnson King, “Trying is Good” April 2016
Conference: Pitt-CMU Graduate Student Conference in Philosophy
Location: University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

Response to Jian Shen, “Gradual Revelation: A Signaling Model” March 2014
Conference: Pitt-CMU Graduate Student Conference in Philosophy
Location: University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Course Instructor, Carnegie Mellon University
Automation, AI, and Society (co-taught with Máté Szabó) Spring 2018
Introduction to Philosophy Spring 2017, Summer 2017
Ethics and Global Economics Fall 2016
Ethical Judgments in Professional Life Summer 2016
Social Structure, Public Policy, and Ethics Spring 2016
Introduction to Ethics Summer 2014, Fall 2015
Introduction to Political Philosophy Summer 2013

Teaching Assistant/Grader, Carnegie Mellon University
Ancient Philosophy Fall 2014
Ethical Theory Spring 2014
Environmental Ethics Fall 2013
Social Structure, Public Policy, and Ethics Spring 2013

PEDAGOGICAL AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Workshop on Teaching and Learning, Special Emphasis on Inclusive Pedagogy February 2017
Organized by American Association of Philosophy Teachers
University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

Graduate Teaching Fellows Program December 2016-Present
Eberly Center for Teaching Excellence and Educational Innovation
Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

Virginia Tech Future Faculty Program January 2017
Virginia Tech University, Blacksburg, VA, USA

2016 Seminar on Teaching and Learning in Philosophy July 2016
American Association of Philosophy Teachers Biennial Workshop/Conference on Teaching Philosophy
Saginaw Valley State University, Saginaw, MI, USA

Future Faculty Program Completed Spring 2016
Eberly Center for Teaching Excellence and Educational Innovation
Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

Digital Humanities Literacy Workshop
Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

Completed Summer 2015

Technology-Enhanced Learning Summer School
Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

Completed Summer 2015

DEPARTMENTAL, UNIVERSITY, AND DISCIPLINARY SERVICE

Selection Committee, Carnegie Mellon University Teaching Innovation Award
Position: Committee Member

Fall 2017-Present

Reviewer, *Teaching Philosophy*

Summer 2016-Present

Center for Ethics and Policy 2016 Workshop on Exploitation and Coercion
Position: Program Committee Member

Fall 2016

Philosophy Department Job Search Committee

Position: Committee Member Fall 2016-Spring 2017 Position: Committee Member

Fall 2014-Spring 2015

Philosophy Department Graduate Admissions Committee
Position: Committee Member

Fall 2014-Spring 2015

Minorities and Philosophy (MAP) Chapter, Carnegie Mellon University

Position: Chapter member
Position: Co-Chair

Spring 2016-Present
Fall 2013-Spring 2016

Pitt-CMU Graduate Student Conference in Philosophy Organizing Committee

Position: Committee Chair
Position: Committee Member

Fall 2014-Fall 2015
Fall 2013-Fall 2014

MEMBERSHIPS

American Philosophical Association
American Association of Philosophy Teachers
American Political Science Association
Northeastern Political Science Association

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Dr. Danielle Wenner
Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Associate Director, Center for Ethics and Policy
Department of Philosophy, Carnegie Mellon University
dwenner@andrew.cmu.edu / (412) 268-8046

Dr. Alex John London
Clara L. West Professor of Ethics and Philosophy and Director, Center for Ethics and Policy
Department of Philosophy, Carnegie Mellon University
ajlondon@andrew.cmu.edu / (412) 268-4938

Dr. Maralee Harrell
Teaching Professor
Department of Philosophy, Carnegie Mellon University
mharrell@cmu.edu / (412) 268-8152

Dr. Kevin Zollman
Associate Professor of Philosophy
Department of Philosophy, Carnegie Mellon University
kzollman@andrew.cmu.edu / (412) 268-8493

Dr. Victoria Shineman
Assistant Professor of Political Science
Department of Political Science, University of Pittsburgh
shineman@pitt.edu / (412) 648-2211