

# CLAIRE KIRWIN

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

**Areas of specialization** Value theory (ethics, metaethics, aesthetics), Nietzsche  
**Areas of competence** Philosophy of mind, Plato

## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

**Assistant Professor of Philosophy**, Northwestern University 2023-present  
**Assistant Professor of Philosophy**, Clemson University 2020-2023  
**Postdoctoral Preceptor**, MA Program in the Humanities, University of Chicago 2019-2020

## EDUCATION

**PhD**, Philosophy, University of Chicago  
Dissertation: 'Value Realism and the First-Person Perspective'  
Committee: Agnes Callard, David Finkelstein, Brian Leiter, Candace Vogler 2019  
**BPhil** (Master's in philosophy), University of Oxford.  
Awarded Distinction (highest possible award) 2011  
**MMathPhil** (Undergraduate master's in mathematics and philosophy), University of Oxford.  
Awarded First Class (highest possible award) 2008

## PUBLICATIONS

### BOOKS

**19. *Nietzsche's Critique of Pity*** (Cambridge 'Elements' series on Nietzsche)  
Cambridge University Press forthcoming

### PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

**18. 'Evaluative Disagreement and Knowing the Good'**  
*Philosophical Studies* forthcoming  
**17. 'Capturing Disagreement from the First-Person Perspective'**  
*Oxford Studies in Metaethics* 21: 97–119 2026  
**16. 'Nietzsche's Ethics of Friendship'**  
*Inquiry* 69 (3): 1384–1406 2026  
**15. 'Worlds Collided: Love as Seeing and Seeing-With'**  
*Oxford Studies in Normative Ethics* 14: 183–202 2024  
**14. 'How to Decide What to Do: Why You're Already a Realist About Value'**  
*European Journal of Philosophy* 32 (3): 847–859 2024  
**13. 'Value Realism and Idiosyncrasy'** (runner-up for the Marc Sanders Prize in Metaethics)  
*Oxford Studies in Metaethics* 18: 24–46 2023

**12. 'Beyond the *Birth*: Middle and Late Nietzsche on the Value of Tragedy'**  
*Inquiry* 66 (7): 1283–1306 2023

**11. 'Pulling Oneself Up by the Hair: Understanding Nietzsche on Freedom'**  
*Inquiry* 61 (1): 82–99 2017

**10. 'Why Sibley is (Probably) Not a Particularist After All'**  
*British Journal of Aesthetics* 51 (2): 201–212 2011

#### BOOK CHAPTERS

**9. 'Normativity from the First-Person Perspective'**  
In *New Essays on Normative Realism*, eds. P. Boghossian and C. Peacocke, OUP 2025

**8. 'The Guise of the Good and the Agential Perspective on Action'**  
In *Engaging Raz*, eds. K. Brownlee, D. Enoch, and A. Marmor, OUP 2025

#### SYMPOSIUM PIECES

**7. 'Art from the Perspective of the Artist'** (Part of 'Six Encounters with Bolzano's Aesthetics')  
*Estetika: The European Journal of Aesthetics* LXIII/XIX (1): 89–112 2026

**6. 'Identification, Alienation, and Devotion'** (Symposium on Paul Katsafanas' *Philosophy of Devotion*)  
*Journal of Moral Philosophy* advance online publication 2025

**5. 'Nietzsche and "We Knowers": Comments on Reginster's *The Will to Nothingness*'**  
*European Journal of Philosophy* 31 (2): 509–515 2023

#### ENCYCLOPEDIA ARTICLES

**4. 'Nietzsche's Ethics'**  
*Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, <https://iep.utm.edu/nietzsches-ethics/> 2022

#### BOOK REVIEWS

**3. Review of Guy Elgat, *Being Guilty: Freedom, Responsibility, and Conscience in German Philosophy from Kant to Heidegger***  
*Ethics* 133 (4): 620–625 2023

**2. Review of Mattia Riccardi, *Nietzsche's Philosophical Psychology***  
*Journal of Nietzsche Studies* 54 (2): 203–209 2023

**1. Review of Andrew Huddleston, *Nietzsche on the Decadence and Flourishing of Culture***  
*Mind* 132 (525): 243–251 2023

#### WORK IN PROGRESS

**Book project: *Value Is Real***  
Under contract with Oxford University Press

**"An impossible book": Nietzsche's Attempt at Self-Criticism'**  
Commissioned for *The Cambridge Critical Guide to Nietzsche's 'The Birth of Tragedy'*, eds. M. Forster and J. Porter

## PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY

- [Interviewed by Richard Marshall for \*3:16 AM\*](#) 2021  
[Interviewed for the \*Elucidations Philosophy Podcast\* \(episode 134\)](#) 2021

## RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS, RESEARCH SUPPORT, GRANTS, AWARDS, PRIZES

### AWARDED POST-DOCTORATE

- Fellowship-in-Residence**  
Edmond and Lily Safra Center for Ethics, Harvard University 2026–27
- Love Ethic Faculty Fellowship** (declined)  
Institute for Ethics and the Common Good, University of Notre Dame 2026–27
- Kaplan Faculty Fellowship** (teaching release fellowship) 2025–26  
‘The Reality of Value: Human Beings in the Value-Laden World’  
Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, Northwestern University
- Nominee for Junior Researcher of the Year** 2023  
College of Architecture, Arts and Humanities nominee for Clemson’s university-wide award
- Nominee for National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend** 2021  
Won Clemson University internal competition for nomination
- Runner-up for the Marc Sanders Prize in Metaethics** 2021  
Marc Sanders Foundation. Awarded for paper ‘Value Realism and Idiosyncrasy’
- Humanities Hub Lightsey Fellowship** 2021  
Clemson University (internal fellowship, \$5000 grant)

### AWARDED PRE-DOCTORATE

- Mellon Humanities Dissertation Completion Fellowship** 2016-2017  
Mellon Foundation, University of Chicago (internal fellowship, full funding and stipend)
- Lee Family Graduate Essay Prize in Philosophy** 2015  
University of Chicago. Awarded for paper ‘Pulling Oneself Up by the Hair: Understanding Nietzsche on the Freedom of the Will’ (\$1250 prize)

## TALKS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

### INVITED TALKS

- TBD**  
Workshop on Love and Respect, Oxford University sched: 2027
- TBD**  
Boston University philosophy department colloquium sched: 2026
- TBD**  
Harvard European Philosophy Workshop sched: 2026
- “An Impossible Book”: The *Birth of Tragedy* and Nietzsche’s “Attempt at Self-Criticism”**  
Post-Kantian European Philosophy Seminar, Oxford University sched: 2026

<b>‘Evaluative Disagreement and Knowing the Good’</b>	
Ethics Colloquium Series, Cornell University	2026
NYU Ethics Workshop	2025
University of Tennessee at Knoxville philosophy department colloquium	2024
<b>‘Nietzsche’s Ethics of Friendship’</b>	
International Society for Nietzsche Studies annual workshop, UChicago	2025
Chicago-Area Consortium in German Philosophy	2025
Houston Colloquium in German Philosophy (presented online)	2025
<b>‘Realism, Disagreement, and Moral Knowledge’</b>	
University of Chicago Practical Philosophy Workshop	2023
University of Illinois at Chicago philosophy department colloquium	2023
<b>‘Love and Desire’</b>	
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee philosophy department colloquium	2023
<b>‘Normativity from the First-Person Perspective’</b>	
Workshop for edited collection on normative realism, New York University	2022
<b>‘How to Decide What to Do’</b>	
University of South Carolina philosophy department colloquium	2021
<b>‘The First-Person Perspective for Moral Philosophers’</b>	
University of Cambridge ‘Meet the Researcher’ seminar (presented online)	2020
<u>INVITED PANEL DISCUSSIONS AND SYMPOSIA</u>	
<b>‘Nietzsche’s Critique of Pity’</b>	
Panel on Nietzsche on the emotions, North American Nietzsche Society annual conference, Albuquerque, NM	2024
<b>‘Identification, Alienation, and Devotion’</b>	
Comments on Paul Katsafanas’s <i>Philosophy of Devotion: The Longing for Invulnerable Ideals</i> Author-meets-critics panel, Pacific APA	2024
<b>‘Williams on Contingency and Authenticity’</b>	
Comments on Miranda Fricker’s ‘The Perpetual Recreation of Ethical Life: Bernard Williams’ Dynamic Historicism’	
Lindner Lecture on Ethics author-meets-critics panel, College of Wooster	2023
<b>‘Comments on Mattia Riccardi’s <i>Nietzsche’s Philosophical Psychology</i>’</b>	
Book launch symposium (online)	2021
<u>PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS</u>	
<b>‘Love, Desire, and Agency’</b>	
Los Angeles Workshop in Humanistic Ethics, University of California, LA	sched: 2027
<b>‘Evaluative Disagreement and Knowing the Good’</b>	
Chapel Hill Normativity Workshop	2025
<b>‘Capturing Disagreement from the First-Person Perspective’</b>	
Madison Metaethics Workshop (‘MadMeta’)	2024
<b>‘Intentional Action as Interpersonally Constituted’</b>	
Southampton-Humboldt Normativity Conference	2023

<b>‘Art from the Perspective of the Artist’</b> Panel on Bernard Bolzano, American Society for Aesthetics Annual Meeting	2023
<b>‘The Guise of the Good and the Agential Perspective on Action’</b> Conference in honor of Joseph Raz, Columbia Law School	2023
<b>‘The Guise of the Good and the Normative Structure of Intentional Action’</b> St Louis Annual Conference on Reasons and Rationality (‘SLACRR’)	2023
<b>‘Worlds Collided: Love as Seeing and Seeing-With’</b> Workshop in Normative Ethics (‘WiNE’), University of Arizona	2023
<b>‘Akrasia, Testimony, and the Apprehension of Value’</b> (presented online) Apprehending Value Conference, Protestantse Theologische Universiteit, Utrecht, the Netherlands	2022
<b>‘Worlds Collided: Love and Value’</b> Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society and Mind Association (Open Session), University of St Andrews, UK	2022
<b>‘After <i>Birth</i>: Middle and Late Nietzsche on the Value of Tragedy’</b> International Society of Nietzsche Studies Annual Workshop, University of Oxford, UK	2022
<b>‘Worlds Collided: Love and Value’</b> Interpersonal Relations Conference, University of Birmingham, UK	2022
<b>‘How to Decide What to Do: An Argument for Value Realism’</b> (presented online) Southampton–Humboldt Normativity Conference	2021
<b>‘Value Realism and Idiosyncrasy’</b> Madison Metaethics Workshop (‘MadMeta’)	2021
<b>‘Arguing With the Moral Skeptic’</b> (presented online) LVI Reuniones Filosóficas: Varieties of Anti-Skepticism, Universidad de Navarra, Spain	2021
<b>‘Moral Disagreement and Getting Something Right’</b> (presented online) Workshop on the Ethics of Conversation and Disagreement	2021
<b>‘Value Realism and Idiosyncrasy’</b> (presented online) 3 <sup>rd</sup> Cyprus Metaethics Conference	2021
<b>‘Sympathy for the Devil? The Guise of the Good Remastered’</b> (presented online) Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society and Mind Association (Open Session)	2021
<b>‘Sympathy for the Devil? The Guise of the Good Remastered’</b> (presented online) New Mexico – Texas Philosophical Society Annual Meeting	2021
<b>‘Pulling Oneself up by the Hair: Understanding Nietzsche on the Freedom of the Will’</b> International Society for Nietzsche Studies Annual Workshop, University of Chicago	2017
<b>‘Beyond the Birth: Nietzsche’s Later Thoughts on Tragedy’</b> ( <i>unable to present due to illness</i> ) 6th Annual Graduate Philosophy Conference, University of Georgia	2016
<b>‘Plato’s Cave and Nietzsche’s Workshop’</b> Myth and Literature in Ancient Philosophy, University of Cambridge, UK	2011

#### INTERNAL DEPARTMENTAL PRESENTATIONS

<b>‘Akrasia, Moral Testimony, and Acquaintance with Value’</b> Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, Northwestern University	2026
<b>‘The Metaethical Significance of the First-Person Perspective’</b> Graduate Research Symposium, University of Chicago	2019
<b>‘Metaethical Realism and the Idiosyncrasy of the Practical’</b> Practical Philosophy Workshop, University of Chicago	2018
<b>‘Deliberation, Normative Realism, and the First-Person Perspective’</b> Practical Philosophy Workshop, University of Chicago	2017
<b>‘Pulling Oneself up by the Hair: Understanding Nietzsche on the Freedom of the Will’</b> German Philosophy Workshop, University of Chicago	2016
<b>‘Going Wrong by One’s Own Lights: Why Metaethical Constructivism Doesn’t Work’</b> Practical Philosophy Workshop, University of Chicago	2014
<b>‘Nietzsche: Stoic or Psychologist?’</b> Ockham Society, University of Oxford	2011
<b>‘Falsehood in the <i>Sophist</i>’</b> Graduate Colloquium on Late Plato, University of Oxford	2010
<b>‘Love and Personal Identity in <i>Hedwig and the Angry Inch</i> and Plato’s <i>Symposium</i>’</b> Philosophy of Art Discussion Group, University of Oxford	2010
<b>‘Does Skepticism Keep You Awake at Night? A Kantian Response to the Skeptic’</b> Socrates Society, University of Oxford	2010

#### INVITED COMMENTS

On Kyla Ebels-Duggan’s “The Magnetic Center: Value” <i>Think on What Is Good</i> book manuscript workshop, Notre Dame	2026
On Richard Kraut’s ‘Plato’s Relevance for Contemporary Value Theory’ Invited panel, American Philosophical Association, Central Division	2026
On Alex King’s ‘Cultural Appropriation and the Objectification of the Other’ American Society for Aesthetics Annual Meeting	2024
On Elliot Salinger’s ‘Genuine Disagreement’ Chapel Hill Normativity Conference, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	2024
On Andrew Huddleston’s ‘What Is This Thing Called Amor Fati?’ NYU Conference on Issues in the History of Modern Philosophy	2023
On Quinn White’s ‘Paying It Forward’ Northwestern University Society for the Theory of Ethics and Politics annual conference	2023
On Andrew Huddleston’s ‘Abstracting the Divine: The Rothko Chapel’ Southern Aesthetics Workshop IV, College of Charleston	2022
On Rachel Achs and Oded Na’aman’s ‘It Isn’t Always Fitting to Value Valuable Things’ Chapel Hill Normativity Conference, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	2022

On Alexander Horne's 'Too Many Cooks' (presented online) Bernard Williams Workshop, University of Cambridge, UK	2022
On Jason Yonover's 'Freedom as Self-Expression in Spinoza, Nietzsche, and Salomé' North American Nietzsche Society Annual Meeting, Georgia State University, Atlanta	2021
On Kenneth Brewer's "'We Know You Better Than You Know Yourself': Aesthetic Taste and Recommender Systems' New Mexico – Texas Philosophical Society Annual Meeting	2021
On Joshua Knobe's 'Teleology and the Self' Strangers to Ourselves: Conference on German Philosophy and Cognitive Science, University of Chicago	2017
On John Richardson's 'Nietzsche's Psychology' Nietzsche Research Seminar, University of Oxford, UK	2011
On Patrick Wotling's "'Who Are We Anyway?': Nietzsche and the Displacement of the Philosophical Problematic' Nietzsche Research Seminar, University of Oxford, UK	2011
On Tom Bailey's 'Nietzsche the Kantian' Nietzsche Research Seminar, University of Oxford, UK	2011
On Ken Gemes's 'Nietzsche, Nihilism, and the Paradox of Affirmation' Post-Kantian European Philosophy Seminar, University of Oxford, UK	2010

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS, PEER REVIEW, SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Philosophical Association (Central Division)  
American Society for Aesthetics  
North American Nietzsche Society  
International Society for Nietzsche Studies

### REVIEWER FOR ACADEMIC PRESSES

Oxford University Press, Routledge publishing

### REVIEWER FOR SCHOLARLY JOURNALS

*British Journal of Aesthetics* (x2), *Estetika*, *Ethics*, *European Journal of Philosophy* (x5), *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*, *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy* (x3), *Journal of Nietzsche Studies*, *Nous*, *Philosophical Explorations*, *Philosophical Psychology*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Southern Journal of Philosophy*, *Synthesis Philosophica*, *Utilitas*

### REVIEWER FOR CONFERENCE SUBMISSIONS

Arizona Workshop in Normative Ethics (x2), Chapel Hill Normativity Conference, Northwestern University Society for the Theory of Ethics and Politics (NUSTEP) Annual Conference (x3), Saint Louis Annual Conference on Reasons and Rationality

### OTHER SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Member, Nominating Committee, APA Central Division	2025–2026
Co-Chair, Organizing Committee, Northwestern University Society for the Theory of Ethics and Politics (NUSTEP) Annual Conference	2025–2026
Member, Organizing Committee, Northwestern University Society for the Theory of Ethics and Politics (NUSTEP) Annual Conference	2023–2025

## TEACHING AND ADVISING

### AREAS OF UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING (LAST FIVE YEARS)

Ethics, metaethics, aesthetics, Nietzsche, ancient philosophy, epistemology, philosophy of mind  
(latter two in context of ‘Intro to Philosophy’ classes)

### AREAS OF GRADUATE TEACHING (LAST FIVE YEARS)

Ethics, Metaethics, Nietzsche

### COURSES TAUGHT AT NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

PHIL 260 Introduction to Moral Philosophy (undergraduate lecture class)	2026
PHIL 101 Plato on Love and Philosophy (first-year writing seminar) x2	2025–2026
PHIL 414 Nietzsche’s <i>Genealogy of Morality</i> (graduate seminar)	2025
PHIL 360 Contemporary Virtue Ethics (undergraduate/graduate seminar)	2025
PHIL 280 Introduction to the Philosophy of Art (undergraduate lecture class) x2	2024–2025
PHIL 488 Professional Skills Workshop (graduate job placement workshop)	2024
PHIL 360 Philosophy of Love and Sex (undergraduate/graduate seminar)	2024
PHIL 101 Plato on Love and Death (first-year writing seminar)	2024

### COURSES AND INDEPENDENT STUDIES TAUGHT AT CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

Nietzsche (upper-level undergraduate seminar)	2023
Plato and Aristotle (undergraduate independent study)	2022
Plato’s <i>Republic</i> (undergraduate independent study)	2022
Ancient Philosophy (upper-level undergraduate lecture class) x2	2021–2022
Introduction to Philosophy (introductory undergraduate lecture class) x4	2020–2023
Introduction to Ethics (introductory undergraduate lecture class)	2021

### COURSES TAUGHT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Death and the Meaning of Life (seminar for incoming first-generation undergraduates)	2020
Knowing the Good (undergraduate/graduate seminar)	2020
Human Being & Citizen I (undergraduate Humanities Core seminar)	2019
Nietzsche’s <i>On the Genealogy of Morality</i> (undergraduate/graduate seminar)	2019
Foundations of Interpretive Theory (co-instructor; graduate lecture and seminar class)	2019
The Immorality of Art (advanced undergraduate seminar)	2018
What is Moral Skepticism? (advanced undergraduate seminar)	2016

### CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

As part of departmental Curriculum Committee at Clemson University:

- revised the philosophy department’s curriculum for majors and minors to bring it into line with peer institutions.
- introduced a new track within the major, ‘Medicine, Health, and Human Values’ aimed primarily at joint majors interested in applying to medical school.

### UNDERGRADUATE HONORS THESIS ADVISING

**Veronica Rubin**, “Is the Trad Wife Actually Woke? What a Recent Trend in Influencer Culture Reveals” (Awarded Weinberg College Summer Research Grant) 2025–2026

### PHD ADVISOR

**Bella Braxton**, Northwestern University (ABD), “Normativity and Cooperative Agency”

PHD COMMITTEE MEMBER

**Samuel Filby**, Northwestern University (ABD), “Self-Knowledge in Ethics and Aesthetics”

**Isaac Shur**, Northwestern University (ABD), ethics, metaethics

**Madeleine Roffey**, Northwestern University (ABD), ethics of belief

**April Chan**, Northwestern University, ethics of parenthood in immigrant communities

TEACHING AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

**Mission: Accessible Canvas Wall of Fame** 2024

In recognition of inclusivity and accessibility of my Canvas sites, Northwestern University

**Nominee for Most Innovative Course Site, Canvas Hall of Fame** 2024

Student-nominated university-wide award, Northwestern University

**Teagle Fellowship** 2022-2023

Clemson University, Teagle Transformative Texts program (internal fellowship, \$1000 funding)

**Graduate Student Prize for Excellence in Teaching Philosophy** 2019

University of Chicago (departmental award)

DEPARTMENT, COLLEGE, AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Service roles, Northwestern University

Philosophy Department Graduate Committee 2025–2026

Philosophy Department Newsletter Coordinator 2024–2026

Philosophy Department Fellowship Liaison for Graduate Students 2024–2025

Philosophy Department Speaker Series Committee 2023–2024

Service roles prior to appointment at Northwestern University

Departmental Search Committee (Lecturer hire), Clemson University 2023

Chair Review Committee, Clemson University 2022–2023

Departmental Chair’s Advisory Committee, Clemson University 2022–2023

Student advising, Clemson University 2021–2023

Supervisor for the William T. Howell Pre-Law Society, Clemson University 2020–2023

Departmental Search Committee (Tenure-Track hire), Clemson University 2021–2022

Departmental Curriculum Committee, Clemson University 2020–2022

Graduate Representative on Departmental Search Committee, University of Chicago 2015–2016

Coordinator, Practical Philosophy Workshop, University of Chicago 2014–2016

Coorganizer, Prospective Students Visiting Week, University of Chicago 2014–2015

Co-founder, Departmental Pedagogy Program Committee, University of Chicago 2013

Convenor, Plato’s *Symposium* reading group, University of Chicago 2011

Organizer, Interdisciplinary Colloquium on Nietzsche and Literature, Oxford University 2011

Convenor, Philosophy of Art Discussion Group, Oxford University 2010

CV updated April 2026