

# THOMAS M. WILK

Dept. of Philosophy Johns Hopkins University

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## EDUCATION

<b>PH.D. CANDIDATE IN PHILOSOPHY</b> Johns Hopkins University + Dissertation in meta-ethics and philosophy of language + Preparing Future Faculty Teaching Academy	exp. Spring 2018
<b>M.A., PHILOSOPHY</b> Johns Hopkins University	2012
<b>M.A. WITH HONORS, PHILOSOPHY</b> George Mason University + Thesis on David Hume's epistemology	2009
<b>B.A. CUM LAUDE, DOUBLE MAJOR: PHILOSOPHY &amp; ECONOMICS</b> Gettysburg College	2005

## AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Philosophy of Language, Ethics (Theoretical and Applied), Epistemology

## AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Social and Political Philosophy, History of Early Modern Philosophy, Logic (Introductory, Critical Thinking, Decision Theory), Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Sport

## DISSERTATION

**META-ETHICS FOR NEO-PRAGMATISTS:  
A NORMATIVE-PRAGMATIC ANALYSIS OF MORAL DISCOURSE**  
Committee: Michael Williams (Chair), Hilary Bok, Steven Gross

Traditional descriptivist and expressivist accounts of moral discourse face problems about the relationship between moral judgments and motivation, the objectivity of morality, and the retrospective normativity of morality. I develop an alternative to these traditional meta-ethical positions that solves (or dissolves) these problems through an original synthesis between a broadly inferentialist use-theory of meaning and recent work on morality in evolutionary psychology. I construct a framework for the pragmatic analysis of linguistic meaning (or PALM) that extends the inferentialist's interest in proprieties of inference to pragmatic and epistemic proprieties, which, I argue, are of equal importance to our understanding of meaning. These proprieties are explained in terms of moral discourse's evolutionary function of maintaining an environment in which ongoing social coordination is possible for reflective beings like us.



## PUBLICATIONS

2017  
**KENNEDY INSTITUTE OF ETHICS JOURNAL  
27 (2 SUPPLEMENT): E1-E22**

"Trust, Communities, and the  
Standing to Hold Accountable"

2017  
**LOGOS AND EPISTEME: AN INTERNATIONAL  
JOURNAL OF EPISTEMOLOGY 8 (1): 155-162**

"Inferences, Experiences, and the  
Myth of the Given: A Reply to  
Champagne"

## POPULAR PUBLICATIONS

2017  
**HAMILTON AND PHILOSOPHY (OPEN COURT)  
EDS. AARON RABINOWITZ AND ROBERT ARP**  
"The Right Way to Win Over Posterity"

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

*As Instructor of Record:*

**PHILOSOPHY OF LAW**  
Spring 2018, Fall 2017  
George Mason University

**DECISION THEORY**  
Spring 2018  
George Mason University

**BIOETHICS**  
Fall 2017  
George Mason University

**PHILOSOPHY OF HUMAN RIGHTS**  
Fall 2017, Fall 2015, Summer 2014  
Johns Hopkins University

**PHILOSOPHY OF SPORT**  
Summer 2017  
Johns Hopkins University

**CRITICAL THINKING**  
Spring 2016  
Gettysburg College

**CONTEMPORARY MORAL ISSUES**  
Spring 2016 (2 sections), Fall 2015  
Gettysburg College & George  
Washington University

**INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY**  
Spring 2015, Fall 2014, Spring 2014  
George Washington University

**INTRODUCTION TO LOGIC**  
Fall 2013, Fall 2012, Spring 2012  
Goucher College

**PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE**  
Fall 2011  
United States Naval Academy

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## PRESENTATIONS

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- 2018 **APA EASTERN DIVISION MEETING**  
Comment on Daniel Mendez's "Talking Ourselves Senseless"
- 2016 **GETTYSBURG COLLEGE PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT**  
"Making Morality"
- 2015 **PHILOSOPHERS' COCOON CONFERENCE**  
"Are Lived Normative Statuses Really Normative?"
- 2015 **NATURE AND NORMS: VALUES IN A MATERIAL WORLD CONFERENCE**  
Comment on Ross Colebrook's "Ethical Reductionism and the Darwinian Dilemma"
- 2013 **PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT SUMMER RESEARCH SEMINAR, JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY**  
"Moral Fictionalism: Some Concerns"
- 2012 **VIRGINIA PHILOSOPHICAL ASSOCIATION**  
"Rehabilitating the Community View: Majority Agreement, Standard Conditions, and the Normativity of Meaning"
- 2012 **IN WITTGENSTEIN'S FOOTSTEPS, REYKJAVIK, ICELAND**  
(Accepted, could not attend.)  
"Rehabilitating the Community View: Majority Agreement, Standard Conditions, and the Normativity of Meaning"
- 2011 **LEADERSHIP, ETHICS, AND LAW DIVISION WORKSHOP, UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY**  
"Wittgenstein's Rule-Following Considerations"
- 2011 **VIRGINIA PHILOSOPHICAL ASSOCIATION**  
"Epistemic Commitment and the Recognitive Aspect of Education"
- 2010 **OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE LECTURE SERIES, GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**  
"Joking and Meaning It: A Linguistic Trick of Non-Commitment"
- 2009 **LIGHTHEARTED PHILOSOPHERS SOCIETY**  
"Jokes as Speech Acts: Exploring the Richly Linguistic Character of Some Jokes"
- 2009 **LIGHTHEARTED PHILOSOPHERS SOCIETY**  
Comment on Richard C. Richards's "Laughter, Humor, and Incongruity"

## ACADEMIC HONORS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

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- 2017 Dean's Prize Teaching Fellowship (\$6000 + tuition), Johns Hopkins
- 2016-17 David Sachs Dissertation Fellowship (\$28,500), Dept. of Philosophy, Johns Hopkins
- 2016 (Offered) Dean's Prize Teaching Fellowship (\$6000 + tuition), Johns Hopkins
- 2015 Dean's Teaching Fellowship (\$11,500 + tuition), Johns Hopkins
- 2013-14 Hodson Fellowship in the Humanities (\$500), Dept. of Philosophy, Johns Hopkins
- 2013 High Pass, Qualifying Exam in Philosophy of Language, Johns Hopkins
- 2013 Miller Essay Prize (\$1000), Dept. of Philosophy, Johns Hopkins
- 2010-11 Leon Lauer Fellowship (\$19,000), Dept. of Philosophy, Johns Hopkins
- 2009 Outstanding Graduate Student Award, Dept. of Philosophy, George Mason
- 2007-09 Research Assistantship (\$2500/semester), Dept. of Philosophy, George Mason
- 2005 Chan L. Coulter Award, Dept. of Philosophy, Gettysburg College

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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*As Graduate Teaching Assistant:*

### INTRODUCTION TO ETHICS

Spring 2015

### BIOETHICS

Fall 2014, Fall 2013, Fall 2012

### DECISIONS, GAMES & SOCIAL CHOICE

Spring 2014

### HISTORY OF MODERN PHILOSOPHY

Spring 2013

### HISTORY OF MODERN PSYCHOLOGY

Spring 2014, Spring 2013

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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### 2017 JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

Teaching Institute, Center for Educational Resources

### 2016 GETTYSBURG COLLEGE

Workshop on Diversity and Inclusion, Johnson Center for Creative Teaching and Learning

### 2015 CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY

Teaching and Learning Workshop, American Association of Philosophy Teachers

### 2012 JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

Practicum in Administration and Higher Education

### 2010 COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Philosophy Outreach Conference

## GUEST LECTURER

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2012-2014

### TOWSON HIGH SCHOOL, TOWSON, MD

High School Philosophy Class, "What is philosophy and why should we study it?"

2011

### JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

Philosophy of Race and Gender, Discussion about men and feminism

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## SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

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- 2017 APA Eastern Division Meeting, Chair for colloquium on Values in Practice
- 2016 APA Eastern Division Meeting, Chair for colloquium on Moral Progress in the History of the Moral Norms
- 2012-14 Johns Hopkins University Philosophy Department Colloquia Committee
- 2012-13 Johns Hopkins University Center for History and Philosophy of Science Colloquia Organizer
- 2012-13 Reviewer, Verge 9&10: Goucher College Undergraduate Journal
- 2012-14 Reviewer, Prometheus: Johns Hopkins Undergraduate Philosophy Journal
- 2011-12 President, Hammond Society (Johns Hopkins University philosophy graduate student organization)
- 2010-11 Faculty Liaison, Hammond Society
- 2009 Graduate Student Liaison, Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy Conference hosted by George Mason University

## PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

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- + American Philosophical Association
- + American Association of Philosophy Teachers
- + Richard Rorty Society
- + Wilfrid Sellars Society
- + Lighthearted Philosophers Society
- + International Association for the Philosophy of Humor

## TEACHING REFERENCES

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### Steven Gimbel

Professor of Philosophy  
Gettysburg College

☎ 717-337-6575  
✉ sgimbel@gettysburg.edu  
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### John Rose

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Baltimore, Maryland 21204

### Tadeusz Zawidzki

Department Chair  
Associate Professor of Philosophy  
George Washington University

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## REFERENCES

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### Michael Williams

Krieger-Eisenhower  
Professor of Philosophy  
Johns Hopkins University

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Baltimore, MD 21218

### Hilary Bok

Associate Professor of Philosophy  
Luce Professor in Bioethics and  
Moral and Political Theory  
Johns Hopkins University

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### Steven Gross

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### Mark Lance

Professor of Philosophy and  
Justice & Peace Georgetown University

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