

Aaron Eli Segal  
Curriculum Vitae

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**EMPLOYMENT**

National Institutes of Health, Department of Bioethics  
Postdoctoral Fellow, 2022 – present

**EDUCATION**

University of Pittsburgh – PhD in Philosophy, 2022  
University of Chicago – BA in Philosophy, 2014

**RESEARCH**

Areas of Specialization: Normative Ethics, Bioethics  
Areas of Competence: History of Modern Philosophy, Social and Political Philosophy

Dissertation: “Imperfect Duties and Good Will”

Many moral philosophers, especially in the Kantian tradition, have thought of the relation between the domains of justice and beneficence in terms of a distinction between perfect and imperfect duties. Further, they typically assume that only perfect duties can be directed to particular individuals. In my dissertation, I argue that this assumption is false: some imperfect duties are directed to particular individuals by requiring that we express to them a distinctive kind of good will. My account of imperfect duties has important consequences for debates in normative ethics, provides novel explanations of how imperfect duties differ from other duties, and explains how imperfect duties enable us to live our lives in community with others.

Committee: Michael Thompson (Chair), Stephen Engstrom, Jennifer Whiting, Sergio Tenenbaum

**PUBLICATIONS**

Gratitude for What We are Owed  
Forthcoming, *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*

**UNDER REVIEW**

Gratitude and Demand  
The Indeterminacy of Imperfect Duties  
The Normative Power of Consent and Limits on Research Risks  
(co-authored with Dave Wendler)

## **IN PROGRESS**

How to Exploit an Altruist

Beneficence by Convention

Reciprocal Duties and Personal Relationships

Pediatric Research Risks and the Paucity of Data

(co-authored with Jon Fuller and Dave Wendler)

Is It Permissible to Appeal to Participants' Altruism in Medical Research?

(co-authored with Alex Voorhoeve, Beth Kozel, and Dave Wendler)

Public Perspectives on Compensation for Biospecimen Donation

(co-authored with Dave Wendler and Xiaobai Li)

If Participation in Research is an Imperfect Duty, What Follows?

## **PRESENTATIONS** (refereed presentations indicated by \*)

How to Exploit an Altruist

PPE Society, November 2023\*

NYU Philosophical Bioethics Workshop, April 2023\*

University of Arizona, April 2023

Gratitude for What We are Owed

Texas Tech University, February 2023

Duty and Discretion

University of Arizona, May 2020

PPE Society, March 2020\*

Mutual Love and Reasons

University of Pittsburgh, April 2018

Values, Ends, and Practical Knowledge

University of Cape Town, August 2017\*

Kant's Deductions and the Completeness of the Table of Judgments

Universität Tübingen, February 2017\*

## **FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS**

Michael R. Bennett Essay Prize in Philosophy (University of Pittsburgh)

2021, "Gratitude and Demand"

2019, "Values, Valuing, and Local Reasons"

Pre-Doctoral Mellon Fellowship (University of Pittsburgh)

Fall 2015 – Spring 2016, Fall 2018 – Spring 2020

## **TEACHING** (*all at University of Pittsburgh*)

### *As instructor:*

Introduction to Ethics, Spring 2022

Mid-sized course (35 students) covering questions about the status of morality, normative ethical theories, feminist ethics, and major moral problems such as abortion and animal rights.

Philosophy and Public Issues, Summer 2021

Small course (9 students) covering inequality in contemporary society, including units on disobedience and protest, immigration and refugees, and the American prison system.

Introduction to Biomedical Ethics, Fall 2020

Mid-sized course (35 students) covering major biomedical issues, including paternalism and autonomy, informed consent, reproductive rights, and access to healthcare.

History of Modern Philosophy, Summer 2019

Small course (11 students) covering rationalism and empiricism in early modern philosophy, including units on early modern epistemology, ethics, and feminist philosophy.

### *As teaching assistant:*

Concepts of Human Nature, Fall 2021

Concepts of Human Nature, Spring 2021

Introduction to Philosophy of Mind, Spring 2018

Introduction to Political Philosophy, Fall 2017

History of Ancient Philosophy, Spring 2017

Introduction to Ethics, Fall 2016

## **SERVICE**

### *At NIH*

Coordinator, Bioethics Interest Group (2022-2024)

Member, Recruitment Committee

### *At University of Pittsburgh:*

Mentor, Graduate Mentor Program (2019)

President, Philosophy Graduate Students (2018-2019)

Member, Philosophy Climate Committee (2017-2019)

Department TA Mentor for Philosophy Graduate Students (2017-2018)

## REFERENCES

Michael Thompson  
Professor of Philosophy  
University of Pittsburgh  
[mthomps@pitt.edu](mailto:mthomps@pitt.edu)

Jennifer Whiting  
Distinguished Professor of Philosophy  
University of Pittsburgh  
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National Institutes of Health  
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Japa Pallikkathayil (teaching reference)  
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University of Pittsburgh  
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