

Chris Melenovsky

Suffolk University
Philosophy Department
73 Tremont Street
Boston, MA 02108
cmelenovsky@suffolk.edu
cell: (860) 830-7311

APPOINTMENTS

Suffolk University

Assistant Professor: Philosophy Department (Jan 2019 - present)
Director: PPE Program (Aug 2021 - present)
Director: CAS Honors Program (Aug 2021 - July 2022)

Utica College

Assistant Professor: Philosophy Department (Aug 2016 - Dec 2018)

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Research Assistant Professor: PPE Program (July 2014 - July 2016)

EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania

M.A. in Philosophy (May 2011)
Ph.D. in Philosophy (May 2014)
• Dissertation Supervisor: Samuel Freeman

University of Michigan

B.A. in Philosophy; B.A. in Economics (Dec 2007)

RESEARCH AREAS

Areas of Specialization

Political Philosophy; Moral Philosophy; Political Economy

Areas of Competence

Philosophy of Law; History of Moral Theory; Philosophy of Social Science

BOOKS

Routledge Handbook of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (May 2022)
• Editor, Routledge University Press

ARTICLES

“The Reasons to Follow Conventional Practices”
• *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* (forthcoming)

“Interests from and in Conventions”
• *Synthese*, 200.1 (Feb 2022)

“Conventionalism and Legitimate Expectations”
• *Journal of Moral Philosophy*, 18.2 (Jan 2021)

“Social Cooperation as Institutional Rule-Following”
• *Public Affairs Quarterly*, 34.1 (Jan 2020)

“The Status Quo in Buchanan’s Constitutional Contractarianism”
• *Homo Oeconomicus*, 36.2 (Sept 2019)

“The Value of a Non-Ideal”
• *Social Theory and Practice*, 45.3 (July 2019)

ARTICLES (CON'T)

- “Rawlsian Objectivity”
 - *Journal of the APA*, 4.4 (Jan 2019)
- “The Implicit Argument for the Basic Liberties”
 - *Res Publica*, 24.4 (Nov 2018)
- “Not all Political Lies are Morally Equal”
 - *Journal of Social Philosophy*, 49.2 (July 2018)
- “Promises, Practices, and Reciprocity”
 - *Philosophical Quarterly*, 67.266 (June 2016)
- “Incentives, Conventionalism, and Constructivism”
 - *Ethics*, 126.3 (Apr 2016)
- “Why Free Market Rights are Not Basic Liberties” (with J. Bernstein)
 - *Journal of Value Inquiry*, 49.1 (Mar 2015)
- “The Basic Structure as a System of Social Practices”
 - *Social Theory and Practice*, 39.4 (Oct 2013)

BOOK CHAPTERS

- “Institutions and Institutionalism”
 - *The Routledge Handbook of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics*
[ed. C.M. Melenovsky] (May 2022)
- “Philosophy, Politics, and Economics”
 - *The Routledge Handbook of Political Philosophy, 2nd Edition*
[ed. R. Muldoon and F. D’Agnostino] (forthcoming)
- “Rawls and the Basic Structure of Society”
 - *The Oxford Handbook on the Philosophy of John Rawls*
[ed. B. Neufeld, C. Hartley, and L. Watson] (under agreement)

UNDER REVIEW

- [article about *Political Liberalism* and public reason]
- [article about objections to using a prominent accounting metric]
- [article about whether legal reform can wrong people]
- [article grounding legal normativity in moral conventionalism]

DISSERTATION

A Mooring for Ethical Life: Assessing the Basic Structure of Society
 Supervisor: Samuel Freeman
 Advisors: Kok-Chor Tan, Elisabeth Camp, Waheed Hussain

The dissertation defends the Rawlsian focus on the basic structure of society as the primary subject of justice. It explains what the basic structure is and why it is morally significant. By structuring our interactions with others, the institutions that constitute the basic structure do not merely cause certain distributions, they often determine our moral obligations, our rights, and our values.

PRESENTATIONS

- “The Principle of Fairness, Conventionalism, and Kant” [refereed]
- 2023 PPE Society Meeting; New Orleans, LA (Nov 2 - 4, 2023)
- “Generative Conventionalism and the Law” [invited]
- 2023 VUN Workshop; Vrije University, Amsterdam, NL (July 13 - 14, 2023)
- “Against EBITDA: The Social Costs of an Accounting Metric” [refereed]
- 2022 PPE Society Meeting; New Orleans, LA (Nov 3 - 5, 2022)
- “Public Reason In and Out of the Well-Ordered Society” [invited]
- Samuel Freeman Retirement Event; Philadelphia, PA (Apr 29, 2022)
- 2021 PPE Society Meeting; New Orleans, LA (Feb 3 - 5, 2022)
- “Kantian Conventionalism” [refereed]
- 2020 PPE Society Meeting; New Orleans, LA (Mar 12 - 14, 2020)
- “Defending Practice Positivism” [refereed]
- 2019 PPE Society Meeting; New Orleans, LA (Mar 28 - 30, 2019)
- “Property Rights and Injustice: The Emancipation of the Serfs” [refereed]
- 2018 PPE Society Meeting; New Orleans, LA (Mar 15 - 17, 2018)
- “Conventionalism as Communitarian Contractualism” [refereed]
- 2017 Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress; Boulder, CO (Aug 10 - 13, 2017)
- “A Moral Taxonomy of Social Practices” [refereed]
- 2017 PPE Society Meeting; New Orleans, LA (Mar 16 - 19, 2017)
- “Contractualist Conventionalism” [refereed]
- 2016 APA Eastern Division Meeting; Washington DC (Jan 6 - 9, 2016)
- “An Improved Conception of Social Cooperation” [invited]
- MIT Political Theory Workshop; Cambridge, MA (Oct 23, 2015)
- 2015 UNC/Duke PPE Workshop; Chapel Hill, NC (Aug 22, 2015)
- “The Implicit Argument for the Basic Liberties” [invited]
- IVR 2015; Washington, DC (July 27, 2015)
- “Rawlsian Objectivity,” [refereed]
- 2015 APA Pacific Division Meeting; Vancouver, BC (Apr 4, 2015)
- “Promises, Practices, and Reciprocity” [invited]
- 2014 UNC/Duke PPE Workshop; Chapel Hill, NC (Aug 30, 2014)
- “The Basic Structure and Ethical Life” [refereed]
- 2014 APA Pacific Division Meeting; San Diego, CA (Apr 16, 2014)
- 2014 Felician Ethical Conference; Lodi, NJ (Apr 26, 2014)
- “Rawlsian Objectivity and Naturalism” [refereed]
- 2014 York University Graduate Conference; Toronto, ON (Apr 24, 2014)
- “The Practice-Dependent Wrong of Breaking Promises” [refereed]
- Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress; Boulder, CO (Aug 9 - 12, 2012)
- Felician Ethics Conference; Rutherford, NJ (Apr 21, 2012)
- “Why Economic Rights are not Basic Liberties” [with J. Bernstein]
- Graduate Student Colloquia Series; Philadelphia, PA (May 3, 2013)
- “The Basic Structure as a Particular Set of Social Practices” [refereed]
- Graduate Conference; CUNY, New York, NY (Apr 20, 2012)
- “Legal Obligation, Fairness and the Value of Choice” [refereed]
- Graduate Workshop Series, UPenn Program on Democracy, Citizenship,
and Constitutionalism; Philadelphia, PA (Mar 15, 2012)
- “Finessing Ecumenical Expressivism” [refereed]
- Brandeis Graduate Student Conference; Waltham, MA (Mar 6, 2010)
- “International Right and Kant's World-Federation” [refereed]
- Oxford University Graduate Conference; Oxford, UK (Nov 22, 2009)

TEACHING
EXPERIENCE

- Political Economy (Spring 2021, 2022; Fall 2022, 2023)
 - A senior seminar focused on discussion of interdisciplinary topics and writing a final research paper
- Social and Political Philosophy (Fall 2022, 2023)
 - Focuses on key historical texts to emphasize trends in philosophy about government authority, economic justice, and social oppression
- Ethics and Civic Life (Fall 2019, 2020, 2021)
 - Highlights how ethical theory interacts with social science in arguments about public policy by focusing on specific debates (e.g., minimum wage and trade)
- Philosophy of Law (Fall 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021)
 - A survey of both analytic and normative problems in Tort Law, Contract Law, Criminal Law, Property Law, and Constitutional Law
- Capitalism, Equality, and Justice (Fall 2020)
 - Surveys historical and contemporary arguments for and against Capitalism with emphasis on Smith, Marx, feminism, and economic development
- Social Ethics (Spring 2019)
 - Introductory ethics class on individual responsibility for collectively harmful behavior such as consumer choices and sustaining social norms
- Environmental Ethics (Spring 2019)
 - Upper level Philosophy and PPE course that focuses on ethical difficulties in the treatment of natural environments (with emphasis on policy decisions)
- Introduction to Ethics (Fall 2016, 2017, 2018; Spring 2017)
 - Focuses on developing skill in ethical reasoning by reviewing key ethical distinctions, applied topics, and major moral theories
- Law and Ethics of Cyber Espionage (Fall 2016, 2017; Spring 2017, 2018)
 - Evaluates the policy and law that surrounds state-on-state, state-on-person, and company-on-company espionage with special focus on cyber-espionage
- Political Ethics (Fall 2012; Spring 2018)
 - Applied ethics class with focus on moral issues faced by those acting within political institutions such as voters, judges, legislators, and lawyers
- Theories of Justice (Spring 2017)
 - Introduces political theories by linking contemporary debates with the work of major figures like Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Mill, Smith, Marx, and Rawls
- Ethics of Peace, War, and Defense (Spring 2016; Summer 2016)
 - Teaches the basics of and alternatives to just war theory before applying these ideas to current topics like drone use, targeted killing, and secrecy
- Introduction to PPE (Fall 2014, 2015; Spring 2015)
 - Examines rational choice theory, game theory, public choice theory, norms theory, and principles of distributive justice as an introductory PPE class
- Capstone Seminar in PPE (Spring 2015, 2016)
 - A senior research seminar for the PPE program that covers topics like cost-benefit analysis, public choice theory, and measures of well-being
- Introduction to Moral Theory (Fall 2014)
 - Introduction to different approaches in moral theory with focus on Mill, Kant, Hobbes, and Aristotle
- The Social Contract (Summer 2012)
 - Introductory class focusing on Hobbes, Locke, Bentham, Rousseau, Mill, Marx, Nozick, and Rawls

SERVICE AND
PROFESSIONAL
ACTIVITIES

School Service (Suffolk University)

- Director of PPE Program (Aug 2020 - Dec 2022; May 2022 - present)
- Advisor for Undergraduate PPE Club (Jan 2019 - present)
- Director of CAS Honors Program (Aug 2021 - Aug 2022)
- Assistant Director of PPE Program (Jan 2019 - Aug 2021)
- Member of Education Policy Committee (Jan 2019 - Nov 2022)
- Honors Faculty Advisory Committee (Jan 2019 - Dec 2022)
- Honors Coordinator for PPE and Philosophy (Jan 2019 - Dec 2022)
- Honors Reassessment Committee (Aug 2021 - June 2022)

Department Service (Suffolk University)

- Lead Organizer, "PPE Policy Event" Series (Jan 2019 - present)
- Hiring Committee Member (Aug 2021 - Apr 2022)
- Graduate Student Advisor: Nicholas Raby (Jan 2021 - Dec 2021)
- Supervisor for Research Assistant: Clare Thomson (May 2021 - Aug 2021)
- Supervisor for Research Assistant: Brittany Brown (Jan 2021 - May 2021)
- Supervisor for Internship: Hayden McGuire (June 2020 - July 2020)

School Service (Utica College)

- Academic Standards Committee (Jan 2018 - Dec 2018)
- Core Oversight Committee (Aug 2016 - May 2017)
- Advisor, Utica College Debate Team (Aug 2016 - May 2017)

Department Service (University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill)

- Organizer, Kantian Ethics Reading Group (Aug 2015 - May 2016)
- Undergraduate honors thesis advisor: Daniel Irving, "Self-Ownership, Autonomy, and Accounts of Property" (Aug 2015 - May 2016)
- Organizer; Undergraduate Student Reading Group: *The Heart of Human Rights* (Sept 2015 - Dec 2015)
- Organizer, Undergraduate Student Reading Group: *Capital in the 21st Century* (Jan 2015 - May 2015)

Department Service (University of Pennsylvania)

- Lead Organizer, "The Correspondence and Independence of Moral and Political Theory" Graduate Student Conference (May 2012 - Nov 2012)
- Organizer, Graduate Student Reading Group in Moral and Political Theory (Fall 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010; Spring 2012, 2011; Summer 2013, 2011)
- Undergraduate honors thesis advisor: Claudia Ricciardi, "Institutional Luck Egalitarianism" (Jan 2012 - May 2012)
- Organizer, UPenn Graduate Student Writing Group (Aug 2011 - May 2012)
- Graduate Student Representative, Philosophy (Sept 2011 - May 2012)

Professional Service outside Philosophy

- Instructor and Organizer; UNICEF/UPenn Course on Social Norms, University of Pennsylvania (July 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015)
- Judge; North Carolina State Ethics Bowl Competition (Apr 2015, 2016)
- Researcher; Social Responsibility Action Committee, University of Pennsylvania (Aug 2013 - May 2014)
- Academic Administrator; Center for Ethics and the Rule of Law, University of Pennsylvania Law School (June 2011 - Dec 2012)
- Consultant on Norms and Development, UNICEF (Jan 2012 - Sept 2012)
- Graduate Associate, Harrison College House (Jan 2009 - June 2014)

SERVICE AND
PROFESSIONAL
ACTIVITIES
(CONT.)

Professional Service for Philosophy

- Reviewed articles for publication in (1) *Analysis*; (2) *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*; (3) *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy*; (4) *Economics and Philosophy*; (5) *Ergo*; (6) *European Journal of Political Research*; (7) *Global Governance*; (8) *Homo Oeconomicus*; (9) *Journal of Applied Philosophy*; (10) *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*; (11) *Journal of Philosophy*; (12) *Journal of Politics*; (13) *Journal of Social Philosophy*; (14) *Law and Philosophy*; (15) *Moral Philosophy and Politics*; (16) *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*; (17) *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*; (18) *Philosophy, Politics, and Economics*; (19) *Philosophical Studies*; (20) *Political Theory*; (21) *Res Publica*; (22) *Social Theory and Practice*; (23) *South African Journal of Philosophy*; (24) *Utilitas*
- Reviewed books for publication for (1) Oxford University Press; (2) Routledge Press; and (3) Palgrave MacMillan
- Reviewed submissions for inclusion in (1) PPE Society Meetings; (2) APA Eastern Meetings; and (3) APA Pacific Meetings
- Invited Participant, Liberty Fund Conference: “The Legacy of James Buchanan” (July 2019)
- Invited Participant, Liberty Funds Conference: “Liberty, Responsibility, and Democracy in the Work of Geoffrey Brennan” (Sept 2023)

Assistant Editing Experience

- Reviewed the 1999 edition of *A Theory of Justice* to identify and report revisions that were requested by John Rawls but were not made by Harvard University Press. Printings after 2014 reflect these corrections.
- Adrienne Martin, *How We Hope* (Princeton University Press, 2013)
- Claire Finkelstein, et al., *Targeted Killings: Law and Morality in an Asymmetric World* (Oxford University Press, 2012)
- Kok-Chor Tan, *Justice, Institutions, and Luck: The Site, Ground, and Scope of Distributive Justice* (Oxford University Press, 2012)

REFERENCES

Geoffrey Sayre-McCord
Morehead-Cain Alumni Professor
University of North Carolina
sayre-mccord@unc.edu

Chris Riddle
Chair, Philosophy Department
Utica College
cariddle@utica.edu

Kok-Chor Tan
Associate Professor
University of Pennsylvania
kctan@upenn.edu

Barry Maguire
Senior Lecturer
Edinburgh University
bmaguire@ed.ac.uk

Samuel Freeman
Avalon Chair in the Humanities
University of Pennsylvania
sfreeman@upenn.edu

Prof. Elisabeth Camp
Associate Professor
Rutgers University
elisabeth.camp@rutgers.edu