

# Kenneth Shields

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## Education

Ph.D. Philosophy, University of Missouri, 2010–2016  
M.A. Philosophy, University of Missouri, 2010–2012  
M.L.A. Social Science, Henderson State University, 2006–2009  
B.M.E. Music Education (Summa Cum Laude), Henderson State University, 2001–2006

## Areas of Specialization

Moral Psychology, Philosophy of Disability, Metaethics, Experimental Philosophy

## Areas of Competence

Ethics, Medical Ethics, Logic and Reasoning, Jurisprudence, Normative Ethics, Environmental Ethics, Existentialism, History of Philosophy

## Academic Appointments

Adjunct Instructor, Department of Philosophy, University of Missouri, 2024–present  
Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy and Religion,  
University of Indianapolis, 2018–2024  
Adjunct Instructor, Ivy Tech–Columbus, 2023  
Instructor, Department of Philosophy, University of Missouri, 2017–2018  
Adjunct Instructor, Evening Campus, Columbia College, 2017–2018  
Adjunct Instructor, Moberly Area Community College, 2017–2018  
Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Philosophy, University of Missouri, 2016–2017  
Graduate Instructor, Department of Philosophy, University of Missouri, 2012–2016  
Florence G. Kline Research Assistant, under Peter Vallentyne, Department of Philosophy,  
University of Missouri, 2012–2014  
Teaching Assistant, Department of Philosophy, University of Missouri, 2010–2012; 2015  
Adjunct Instructor, Department of English, Foreign Languages, and Philosophy,  
Henderson State University, 2007

## **Publications**

Shields, K. (2023) "[Neurodiversity.](#)" *Bioethics Handbook*, Rowman and Littlefield.

Shields, K. (lead author) and Beversdorf, D. (2020) "[A Dilemma for Neurodiversity.](#)" *Neuroethics*.

Shields, K. (2016) "[Moral internalism, amoralist skepticism, and the factivity effect.](#)" *Philosophical Psychology*, 29:8, 1095-1111.

Commentary: Robbins, P. and Shields, K. (2014) "[Explaining ideology: two factors are better than one.](#)" *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 37, p.326-328.

## **Non-Refereed Publications**

Shields, K. (2024) "[Why Not View the Other Side as "Crazy?"](#)" *Psychology Today*.

Shields, K. (2023) "[Autism, Neurodiversity, and the Inclusion Paradox.](#)" *Psychology Today*.

Shields, K. (2023) "[How Technology Can Change the Way We Talk About Abortion](#)" *New Thinking*.

## **Fellowships and Grants**

The OpEd Project–Public Voices Fellowship, University of Indianapolis; 2022-2023

Postdoctoral Fellowship, University of Missouri, Graduate School; 2016-2017

External Funding, Yale University, Joshua Knobe; 2013-present

GSA Travel Grant, University of Missouri, Graduate Student Association; 2015

External Funding, APA, AAPT Travel Funding; 2014

Florence G. Kline Fellowship, University of Missouri; 2012-2013

Florence G. Kline Fellowship, University of Missouri; 2010-2011

ORG Travel Grant, University of Missouri, Organization Resource Group; 2012

GPC Travel Grant, University of Missouri, Graduate Professional Council; 2012

## **Awards**

Outstanding Philosophy Paper Travel Award, Department of Philosophy; 2015

Outstanding Philosophy Paper Travel Award, Department of Philosophy; 2013

Scott T. Davey Memorial Prize for Excellence in M.A. Research, for

"Motivational Internalism and Experimental Philosophy"; 2012

## Teaching Development

[QM Rubric Update Seventh Edition](#): University of Indianapolis; December 2023  
[Applying the Quality Matters Workshop](#): University of Indianapolis; Spring 2023  
Faculty Workshop: English Learner Workshop; Winter 2019  
Faculty Workshop: Meaningful Peer Observation of Fellow Faculty Members; Winter 2019  
New Faculty Orientation; University of Indianapolis; 2018-2019  
American Philosophical Association/American Association of Philosophy Teachers  
[Seminar on Teaching and Learning in Philosophy](#); Summer 2014  
Teaching Philosophy Seminar: College Pedagogy; Winter 2010  
Instructor: Paul Weirich

## Teaching Experience

### Courses Taught as Instructor of Record

Phil 2900: Environmental Ethics, University of Missouri; Fall 2025  
Phil 4000/7000: Normative Ethics, University of Missouri; Winter 2025  
Phil 4610/7610: Introduction to Philosophy of Law, University of Missouri; Fall 2024  
Phil 4610: Introduction to Philosophy of Law, University of Missouri; Fall 2024  
Phil 101: General Introduction to Philosophy, University of Indianapolis; Winter 2021/  
Fall 2021/2023/Winter 2022/2023/2024/2025  
Phil 270: Ethics and Philosophy of Science, University of Indianapolis  
Winter 2020/2021/2022/2023  
Phil 229: Moral Failings, University of Indianapolis; Fall 2020  
Phil 229: Existentialism, University of Indianapolis; Fall 2019  
Phil 130HN: Honors Philosophy, University of Indianapolis; Fall 2019  
Phil 220: Medical Ethics, University of Indianapolis; Fall 2018/Winter 2019/2023  
Phil 201: Ethics, University of Indianapolis; Fall 2018-2021/Winter 2019-2021  
Online Summer 2023/Fall 2023/Winter 2024  
Phil 330: Ethics, Columbia College, Evening Campus; Fall 2017  
Phi 152: Introduction to Ethics (hybrid), Moberly Area Community College; Fall 2017/  
Winter 2018  
Phi 150: Introduction to Philosophy (hybrid), Moberly Area Community College; Fall 2017  
Phil 4500: Theories of Ethics (Moral Psychology), University of Missouri; Winter 2017/2025  
Phil 1100: Honors Introduction to Ethics, University of Missouri; Winter 2017  
Phil 1200: Introduction to Logic and Reasoning (online), University of Missouri; Fall 2016/2026

Phil 2440: Medical Ethics, University of Missouri; Winter 2016/2018/Fall 2024/2025/2026

Phil 1100: Introduction to Ethics, University of Missouri; Winter 2015/2025/2026

Phil 1000: General Introduction to Philosophy, University of Missouri; Fall 2014/2016/2025/2026

Phil 1100: Introduction to Ethics (online), University of Missouri; Summer 2012/2013  
Winter 2016

Phil 2013: Introduction to Philosophy, Henderson State University; Fall 2007

### **Courses Taught as Teaching Assistant**

Phil 1200: Introduction to Logic and Reasoning, University of Missouri; Winter 2018  
Instructor: Philip Robbins

Phil 1100: Introduction to Ethics, University of Missouri; Fall 2017  
Instructor: Philip Robbins

Phil 2700: Elementary Logic, University of Missouri; Fall 2015  
Instructor: Devin Frank

Phil 1000: General Introduction to Philosophy, University of Missouri; Winter 2012  
Instructor: Donald Sievert

Phil 1100: Introduction to Ethics, University of Missouri; Fall 2011  
Instructor: Peter Vallentyne

Phil 1100: Introduction to Ethics, University of Missouri; Winter 2011  
Instructor: Philip Robbins

Phil 1200: Introduction to Logic and Reasoning, University of Missouri; Fall 2010  
Instructor: André Ariew

### **Invited Class Lectures**

Phil 3437: Philosophy of Science; February 16, Winter 2021  
University of Minnesota–Rochester  
Instructor: Jake Wright

Missouri Scholars Academy: Philosophy and God; June 19, Summer 2015  
University of Missouri  
Instructor: Josh Smart

Phil 9901: Seminar on Experimental Philosophy; April 21, Winter 2014  
University of Missouri  
Instructor: Philip Robbins

Phil 1200: Introduction to Logic and Reasoning; November 17, Fall 2010  
University of Missouri  
Instructor: André Ariew

### **Presentations**

“Moral Transformation: A Hard Problem For (Some) Moral Skeptics”  
APA – Pacific, Virtual; Workshop Session; April 2026

Panelist, Ethics Panel: Algorithms and Ethics  
University of Indianapolis; April 2021

“A Dilemma for Neurodiversity”  
Missouri Philosophy Forum, Columbia, MO; April 2018

“A Dilemma for Neurodiversity”  
Society for Philosophy and Psychology, Baltimore, MD; June 2017

“Quasi-realism and the Problem of the Schizoid Attitude”  
APA – Central, St. Louis, MO; February 2015

“Motivational Internalism and Experimental Philosophy”  
Buffalo Experimental Philosophy Conference, Buffalo, NY; October 2012  
66th Annual Mountain-Plains Philosophy Conference, Storm Lake, IA; October 2012

## **Invited Comments**

“The Role of Intuition in Frankfurt-Style Arguments on Moral Responsibility”  
– Joseph Kranak  
IPA – Spring Meeting, Virtual (Online); April 2021

Symposium: “Emotions and the Body. Testing the Subtraction Argument” – Rodrigo Diaz  
APA – Central, Virtual (Online); February 2021

Symposium: “We Can Have Our Buck and Pass It, Too” – Zoe Johnson King  
APA – Central, Chicago, IL; February 2018

“Expressing the ‘Ought’ of Most Reason” – Luis Oliveira  
APA – Central, Kansas City, MO; March 2017

## **Academic Service**

Committee member; Teacher of the Year Committee  
University of Indianapolis; 2023-2024

Committee member; Health and Wellness Committee  
University of Indianapolis; 2022-2023

Member, Symphonic Wind Ensemble  
University of Indianapolis; 2018-2020

Moderator/organizer, Free Ethics Lunch: The Ethics of Grading; Center for Ethics;  
University of Indianapolis; Winter 2019

Moderator/organizer, Ethics Panel: Should I Buy That? The Ethics of Consumer Boycotts;  
University of Indianapolis; Fall 2018

Assistant organizer, Second Annual Workshop for the Oxford Studies in Political Philosophy; 2014

Assistant organizer, semiannual Florence G. Kline Workshops, University of Missouri; 2013-2014

Kline Research Assistant, University of Missouri; 2012-2014

Assistant organizer, Central States Philosophical Association Conference; 2012

President, Philosophy Graduate Student Organization, University of Missouri; 2012-2014

Treasurer, Philosophy Graduate Student Organization, University of Missouri; 2012-2014

Graduate Peer Mentor, University of Missouri; 2011-2012

## Graduate Coursework

Audited courses marked with '\*\*'.

Henderson State University courses, as part of M.L.A., marked with '+'

### Metaphysics, Mind and Language

\*Metaphysics: Fictionalism (Phil 9610); Fall 2015

Kenneth Boyce

\*Philosophy of Mind: A Survey (Phil 8520); Winter 2014

Andrew Melnyk

Metaphysics: A Survey (Phil 8510); Fall 2012

Jonah Goldwater

Philosophy of Mind and Psychology: Moral Psychology (Phil 9710); Fall 2011

Philip Robbins

Philosophy of Language: A Survey (Phil 8540); Fall 2011

Claire Horisk

Metaphysics: Collective Action (Phil 9610); Winter 2011

Sara Chant

+Introduction to Linguistics: A Survey (Eng 5663); Winter 2007

Clinton Atchley

+Readings in Philosophy: Weakness of Will (Phi 6493); Fall 2008

Kevin Durand

### Ethics

\*Ethical Theory: Metanormativity (Phil 9520); Winter 2015

Robert Johnson

Ethical Theory: Metaethics (Phil 9520); Winter 2013

Robert Johnson

Seminar in Philosophy: Moral Decision and Moral Obligation(Phil 9901); Winter 2012

Peter Vallentyne

Ethical Theory: Moral Value (Phil 9520); Winter 2011

Robert Johnson

## **History of Philosophy**

The Rationalists: Descartes, Leibniz, and Galileo (Phil 9110); Fall 2011  
Donald Sievert

+Ancient Philosophy: Pre-Socratics, Plato and Aristotle (Phil 5043); Fall 2006  
Kevin Durand

+Modern Philosophy: Descartes, Hume and Kant (Phil 5053); Fall 2007  
Kevin Durand

+American Philosophy: Pierce, James, Royce, and Dewey (Phil 5073); Winter 2008  
Kevin Durand

## **Logic**

Seminar in Logic: Intuitionist Logic (Phil 9887); Fall 2012  
Zak Ernst

Decision Theory: Causal Decision Theory and Game Theory (Phil 9510); Winter 2012  
Zak Ernst

Intermediate Logic: Sentential and Predicate Logic (Phil 7110); Fall 2010  
Paul Weirich

## **Political Philosophy**

Social and Political Philosophy: International Justice (Phil 9320); Winter 2011  
Peter Vallentyne

+Civil Liberties (Psc 5173); Winter 2008  
Larry Monette

+Social and Political Thought (Psc 5073); Fall 2006  
Larry Monette

## **Epistemology and Philosophy of Religion**

Epistemology: A Survey (Phil 9820); Fall 2010  
Peter Markie

\*Philosophy of Religion: A Survey (Phil 7220); Fall 2014  
Kenneth Boyce

## Other

Protoseminar: Philosophical Methods Course (Phil 8100); Fall 2010  
Andrew Melnyk

Dissertation Seminar (Phil 8300); Fall 2012  
André Ariew

+Truth, Order and Beauty: Past to 1600 (La 6103); Fall 2007  
Clinton Atchley, Kevin Durand, and Martin James

+Truth, Order and Beauty: 1600 to Present (La 6203); Winter 2007  
Angela Boswell, Julia Hall, and David Evans

+Readings in History: Medieval Philosophy (His 6563); Fall 2008  
Megan Hickerson

## Statistics Computer Skills

SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences)

## Dissertation: Amoralists, Inverted Commas, and the Puzzle of Moral Internalism: An Essay in Experimental Metaethics

The central question addressed in this dissertation is whether one must have some degree of motivation to comply with their moral evaluation in order to count as genuinely making a sincere moral judgment. Those that view motivation as intrinsic to moral judgment (internalists) grant this condition on moral evaluation, while those that take motivation to be extrinsic to such judgments (externalists) deny this condition. The traditional dispute between internalists and externalists has centered around thought experiments devised to test the coherence of scenarios involving an agent that genuinely makes moral judgments while being entirely unmotivated by them—an individual called the *amoralist*. Recently, experimental methods have been employed to determine whether non-philosophers find amoralist scenarios coherent. This dissertation is concerned primarily with addressing two open questions regarding this recent experimental research: (1) what is this research really tracking in terms of folk psychology, and (2) what impact does this research have on the traditional philosophical dispute over moral internalism. I address (1) by presenting new research showing that amoralist scenarios seem more coherent in factive contexts (e.g., understands that *X* is wrong) but less coherent in non-factive contexts (e.g., believes that *X* is wrong). I call this the *Factivity Effect*, and I argue (via experiments) that it is likely a feature of our cognitive architecture concerning morality. I address (2) by arguing that empirical investigation of our shared concepts impacts metaethical questions—particularly the traditional dispute over moral internalism—in a way that is arguably unique to this branch of analytic philosophy. In short, moral psychology is vital for metaethics.

**Committee:** Philip Robbins (chair), Joshua Knobe (Yale), Laura King (psychological sciences), Robert Johnson, and Peter Vallentyne

## References

Jonathan Evans – Department of Philosophy and Religion, University of Indianapolis  
Email: jevans@uindy.edu; Office Phone: (317) 788-4904.

Peter Murphey – Department of Philosophy and Religion, University of Indianapolis  
Email: murphyp@uindy.edu; Office Phone: (317) 781-5768.

James Willis – Department of Philosophy and Religion, University of Indianapolis  
Email: willisj@uindy.edu; Office Phone: (317) 788-5771.

Philip Robbins – Department of Philosophy, University of Missouri  
Email: robbinsp@missouri.edu; Office Phone: (573) 882-2764.

Peter Vallentyne – Department of Philosophy, University of Missouri  
Email: vallentynep@missouri.edu; Office Phone: (573) 882-2871.

Peter Markie (including teaching reference) – Department of Philosophy,  
University of Missouri  
Email: markiep@missouri.edu; Office Phone: (573) 884-6955.

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