

Michael W. Austin
Curriculum Vitae

Keith 323

Department of History, Philosophy, and Religious Studies
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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Philosophy, 2004, University of Colorado at Boulder
Dissertation: *Parental Rights and Obligations*
Advisor: David Boonin
- M.A. Philosophy of Religion and Ethics, 2000 (Highest Honors), Biola University
- B.A. Political Science, 1991, Kansas State University

EMPLOYMENT

Professor of Philosophy	Eastern Kentucky University	2012-present
Department Chair		2015-2018
Associate Professor of Philosophy	Eastern Kentucky University	2007-2012
Assistant Professor of Philosophy	Eastern Kentucky University	2004-2007

AREAS OF SPECIALTY

Ethics (Theoretical and Applied)

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Philosophy of Religion, History of Ethics, Philosophy of Sport, Philosophy of Technology, Bioethics, Popular Philosophy

PUBLICATIONS

Books (Authored)

- God and Guns in America* (Eerdmans, 2020).
- Humility and Human Flourishing: A Study in Analytic Moral Theology* (Oxford University Press, 2018).
- Wise Stewards: Philosophical Foundations of Christian Parenting* (Kregel Academic, 2009).
- Conceptions of Parenthood: Ethics and the Family* (Routledge, 2007).

Books (Edited)

- Virtues in Action: New Essays in Applied Virtue Ethics* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013).
- Being Good: Christian Virtues for Everyday Life*, with R. Douglas Geivett (Eerdmans, 2012).

The Olympics and Philosophy, co-edited with Heather Reid (University Press of Kentucky, 2012).

Coffee – Philosophy for Everyone: Grounds for Debate, co-edited with Scott Parker (Wiley-Blackwell, 2011).

Fatherhood – Philosophy for Everyone: The Dao of Daddy, co-edited with Lon Nease (Wiley-Blackwell, 2011).

Cycling – Philosophy for Everyone: A Philosophical Tour de Force, co-edited with Jesús Ilundain (Wiley-Blackwell, 2010).

Football and Philosophy: Going Deep, editor (University Press of Kentucky, 2008).

Running and Philosophy: A Marathon for the Mind, editor (Wiley-Blackwell, 2007).

Journal Articles

“A Stoic Critique of Contemporary Sport,” *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport* 47 (2020): 330-343.

“Sport for the Sake of the Soul,” *Sport, Ethics and Philosophy* 12 (2018): 20-29.

“The Doctrine of *Theosis*: A Transformational Union with Christ,” *Journal of Spiritual Formation and Soul Care* 8 (2015): 172-186.

“Is Humility a Virtue in the Context of Sport?” *Journal of Applied Philosophy* 31 (2014): 203-214.

“Sport as a Moral Practice: An Aristotelian Approach,” *Philosophy, Philosophy and Sport*, Royal Institute of Philosophy Supplement 73 (2013): 29-43.

“Defending Humility: A Philosophical Sketch with Replies to Tara Smith and David Hume,” *Philosophia Christi* 14 (2012): 461-470.

“Sports as Exercises in Spiritual Formation,” *Journal of Spiritual Formation and Soul Care* 3 (2010): 66-78.

“Magnanimity, Athletic Excellence, and Performance-Enhancing Drugs,” *Journal of Applied Philosophy* 26 (2009): 46-53.

“Popular Culture in the Philosophy Classroom: A Modest Defense,” with Greg Bassham, *American Philosophical Association Newsletter on Teaching Philosophy* 8 (2008): 6-9.

“Do Children Have a Right to Play?” *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport* 34 (2007): 135-146.

“Fundamental Interests and Parental Rights,” *International Philosophical Quarterly* 47 (2007): 221-235.

“Moral Difficulties in Plantinga’s Model of Warranted Christian Belief,” *Philosophy and Theology* 17 (2005): 121-132.

“The Failure of Biological Accounts of Parenthood,” *The Journal of Value Inquiry* 38 (2004): 499-510.

“It Is Ethical Intuitionism, and Not Another Thing: A Reply to Eggleston,” *Southwest Philosophy Review* 20 (2004): 155-157.

“On the Alleged Irrationality of Ethical Intuitionism: Are Ethical Intuitions Epistemically Suspect?” *Southwest Philosophy Review* 19 (2003): 205-213.

Book Chapters

“Humility in Competitive Contexts,” for the volume *Humility*, edited by Jennifer Wright, in the book series *Becoming Virtuous*, edited by Nancy Snow and Darcia Narvaez (Oxford University Press, 2019), pp. 250-273.

- “Moral Actions in Lopsided Games,” in *Philosophy: Sport*, Macmillan Interdisciplinary Handbooks, R. Scott Kretchmar (Macmillan, 2017), pp. 131-147.
- “Parenthood and Personally Transformative Experiences,” in *Procreation, Parenthood, and Educational Rights: Ethical and Philosophical Issues*, eds. Michael Cholbi and Jaime Ahlberg (Routledge, 2017), pp. 211-229.
- “Christian Humility as a Social Virtue,” in *Character: New Directions from Philosophy, Psychology, and Theology*, Christian Miller, Angela Knobel, R. Michael Furr, and William Fleeson, eds. (Oxford University Press, 2015), pp. 333-350.
- “Doping, Sport, and the Pursuit of Excellence,” in *Doping, Opposing Viewpoints Series* (Greenhaven Press, 2014).
- “Sport as a Moral Practice: An Aristotelian Approach,” in *Virtues in Action* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2013), pp. 39-52.
- “Moral Inquiry,” in *The Routledge Companion to Theism*, eds. Charles Taliaferro, Victoria Harrison, and Stewart Goetz (Routledge, 2012), pp. 330-341.
- “Compassion,” in *Being Good: Christian Virtues for Everyday Life* (Eerdmans, 2012), pp. 185-203.

Popular Philosophy: Book Chapters and Articles

- “The Ethics of Facebook,” *The Chautauqua Journal* Vol. 2, Article 21 (2018).
Available at: <https://encompass.eku.edu/tcj/vol2/iss1/21>
- “A Greatness of Olympic Proportions,” in *The Olympics and Philosophy* (University Press of Kentucky, 2012), pp. 9-22.
- “The Necessary Ground of Being,” in *Coffee—Philosophy for Everyone* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2011), pp. 25-33.
- “Dads and Daughters: Wisdom for a Winding Road,” in *Fatherhood – Philosophy for Everyone* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2011), pp. 190-201.
- “From Shoes to Saddle,” in *Cycling – Philosophy for Everyone* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2010), pp. 173-182.
- “Lost Together: Fathers, Sons, and Moral Obligations,” in *The Ultimate Lost and Philosophy* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2010), pp. 220-232.
*Earlier version: “What Do Jack and Locke Owe Their Fathers?” in *Lost and Philosophy*, edited by Sharon Kaye (Wiley-Blackwell, 2007), pp. 9-17.
- “Why Harry and Socrates Decide to Die: Virtue and the Common Good,” in *The Ultimate Harry Potter and Philosophy*, edited by Gregory Bassham (Wiley-Blackwell, 2010), pp. 258-270.
- “Football, Fame, and Fortune,” *The Other Journal* 18 (2010):
<http://theotherjournal.com/2010/11/23/football-fame-and-fortune/>
- “Why Winning Matters,” *Think* 9 (2010): 99-102.
- “Crowning a True Champion: The Case for a College Football Playoff,” in *Football and Philosophy*, pp. 117-127.
- “Chasing Happiness Together: Running and Aristotle’s Philosophy of Friendship,” in *Running and Philosophy*, pp. 11-19.
- “We Get to Carry Each Other: U2 and Kierkegaard on Authentic Love,” *Philosophy Now* 64 (November/December 2007): 14-17.

Encyclopedia Entries

- “Rights and Obligations of Parents,” *The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (2013): <http://www.iep.utm.edu/parentri/>
- “Divine Command Theory,” *The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (2006): <http://www.iep.utm.edu/divine-c>
- “Parental Rights and Obligations,” *Encyclopedia of Public Administration and Public Policy*, edited by Jack Rabin (New York: Marcel Dekker, online edition, 2005).
- “Parenting,” *Ethics*, revised edition, ed. by John K. Roth (Pasadena, CA: Salem Press, 2005), pp. 1089-1090.
- “Whistleblowing: Corporate and Public Policy” (with Mike Harper) *Encyclopedia of Public Administration and Public Policy*, ed. by Jack Rabin (New York: Marcel Dekker, online edition 2004).

Book Reviews

- Sport Philosophy Now: The Culture of Sports after the Lance Armstrong Scandal, by Matthew James McNees, in *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport* 44 (2017): 281-284.
- A Brief Theology of Sport, by Lincoln Harvey, in *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 58 (2015): 205-209.
- The Second-Person Perspective in Aquinas’s Ethics, by Andrew Pinsent, in *The Philosophical Quarterly* 64 (2014): 507-509.
- Aretism: An Ancient Sports Philosophy for the Modern World, by M. Andrew Holowchak and Heather L. Reid, in *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport* 39 (2012): 321-324.
- Procreation and Parenthood: The Ethics of Bearing and Rearing Children, edited by David Archard and David Benatar, in *Social Theory and Practice* 38 (2012): 553-559.
- Jesus and Philosophy: New Essays, edited by Paul K. Moser, in *Faith and Philosophy* 27 (2010): 359-362.
- The Ethics of Parenthood, by Norvin Richards, at [Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews](#), Published 11-12-2010.
- God and the Reach of Reason, by Erik J. Wielenberg, in *Philosophia Christi* 12 (2010): 236-239.
- Contemporary Athletics and Ancient Greek Ideals, by Daniel Dombrowski, in *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport* 37 (2010): 122-125.
- The Playing Fields of Eton: Equality and Excellence in Modern Meritocracy, by Mika Tapani LaVaquer-Manty, in *Teachers College Record* ([online](#))
- Personal Virtues: Introductory Essays, edited by Clifford Williams, in *Teaching Philosophy* 30:3 (2007): 327-329.
- Value and Virtue in a Godless Universe, by Erik J. Wielenberg, in *Philosophia Christi* 8 (Series 2, 2006): 183-185.
- The Story of Ethics: Fulfilling Our Human Nature, ed. by Kelly James Clark and Anne Poortenga, in *Teaching Philosophy* 28:3 (2005): 279-281.
- Christian Theism and Moral Philosophy, ed. by Michael Beaty, Carlton Fisher, and Mark Nelson, in *Philosophia Christi* 3 (Series 2, 2001): 608-610.
- Body and Soul: Human Nature and the Crisis in Ethics, by J.P. Moreland and Scott B. Rae, in *Ethics and Medicine* 17 (2001): 189-190.
- New Ethics for the Public’s Health, ed. by Daniel Beauchamp and Bonnie Steinbock, in *Ethics and Medicine* 16 (2000): 93-94.

TEACHING

PHI 100 Practical Reasoning
PHI 110 Beginning Philosophy
PHI 130 Beginning Ethics
PHI 240 Philosophy of Religion
PHI 240W Philosophy of Religion
PHI 332 Existentialism and Postmodernism
PHI 360 Ethical Theory and Practice
PHI 362 Technology and Values
PHI 383W Health and Biomedical Ethics
PHI 385 Environmental Ethics
PHI 388 Morality and the Good Life
PHI 388 Contemporary Moral Issues
PHI 388 God and the Good Life
PHI 388/REL 390 Christian Ethics
PHI 490 Metaethics
PHI 490 Animal Ethics
PHI 490 Contemporary Moral Issues
PHI 490 The Problem of Evil
PHI 490 Philosophy of Love
REL 495 The Existence and Nature of the Soul
HON 102 Rhetoric
HON 308W Good and Evil
HON 308W The Philosophy and Politics of Soccer
HON 308W The Sacred and Secular in Modern Life
HON 308W Guns and Violence

Senior Theses Advised

“The Exemplary Coach,” Catherine Wibbels (Honors), 2019.
“Social Justice,” John David Hurley (Philosophy), 2019.
“Moral Relativism in Modern Society,” Miles Manuel (Honors and Philosophy), 2018.
“Domestic Violence: Why Do People Blame the Victim?” Jennifer Burleson (Honors), 2017.
“Critical Thinking and Contemporary Issues,” David Austin (Philosophy), 2017.
“A Defense of the Inferential Argument from Desire,” Connor Kennedy (Philosophy) 2016.
“When Did Science and Religion Become Incompatible?” Erica Campbell (Honors) 2013.
“Environmental Ethics,” Zach Morrison (Philosophy), 2013.
“Being and Becoming,” Stephen Burdette, (Philosophy), 2011.
“Quality Relationships: Face-to-Face versus Computer-Mediated Communication,” Bret Alexander (Philosophy), 2009.
“The Aesthetics of Martyrdom,” Alexandra Scarborough (Philosophy/Honors), 2009.
“No Harm, No Foul: The Immorality of Doping in Sports,” Samantha Engstrom (Philosophy), 2008
“Just War Theory and the Realist Fallacy,” Jonathan Croley (Philosophy), 2008
“Ethics in Warfare,” James Nichols (Philosophy), 2007
“Iraq and the War on Terror: Weapons of Mass Deception,” Seth Bowen, 2007
(Philosophy/Honors)

- “Is Ignorance Bliss?” Jonathan Boyd, 2007 (Philosophy/Honors)
 “Nature vs. Nurture: A Philosophical Approach,” Debbie Link, 2007 (Philosophy)
 “Bono’s African Prayer,” Cindy Welch, 2006 (Honors)
 “The Spider Web Theory: A Possible Solution to the Problem of Freedom and Foreknowledge,”
 Gifford Roberts, 2005 (Philosophy)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS (*invited)

- *“Parental Rights and Instilling Values in Children,” Panel: “The Strengths and Limits of Parental Rights,” *Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion*, November 2019.
 “Virtue vs. Gun Culture 2.0,” *Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Philosophical Society*, November 2019.
 * “Should Parents Instill their Values in their Children?” *14th Annual Fall Ethics Symposium*, Sacramento State University and Cosumnes River College, November 2019.
 “Hursthouse, Humility, and Human Flourishing,” *Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Philosophical Society*, November 2018.
 * “Sport for the Sake of the Soul,” *Inaugural Global Congress on Sport and Christianity*, York St. John University, August 2016.
 * “For the Sake of Character: A Trinitarian Family Ethic,” Plenary Address at the *Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Philosophical Society*, November 2015.
 “Humility: A Study in Analytic Moral Theology,” *The Character Project Workshop*, Wake Forest University, June 2013.
 “The Virtue of Humility,” *Society of Christian Philosophers Mountain-Pacific Region Conference*, University of Colorado-Boulder, March 2013.
 “On the Need for Analytic Moral Theology,” *Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Philosophical Society*, November 2012.
 * “Conceptions of Parenthood,” California State University, Sacramento, March 2012.
 * “Sport as a Moral Practice: An Aristotelian Approach,” Royal Institute of Philosophy, London, November 2011; also delivered at California State University, Sacramento, March 2012.
 “Magnanimity, Modafinil, and Moral Theory,” International Association for the Philosophy of Sport, *Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association*, April 2008 (in absentia).
 “Do Children Have a Right to Play?” International Association for the Philosophy of Sport, *Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association*, April 2007.
 “The Compassionate Person,” *Chautauqua Lecture Series* at Eastern Kentucky University, March 8, 2007.
 “Teaching Controversial Topics,” *EKU Teaching and Learning Center*, January 2007.
 “A Causal Account of Parental Obligations,” *9th Annual Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference: Action, Ethics, and Responsibility*, Washington State University, March 2006.
 “The Inadequacy of Biological Accounts of Parenthood,” *57th Annual Mountain-Plains Philosophy Conference*, Fort Hays State University, October 2004.
 “On the Justification and Extent of Parental Rights,” *20th International Social Philosophy Conference*, Annual Meeting of the North American Society for Social Philosophy, Boston, MA, July 2003; A version of this paper was also presented at the *Center for Values and Social Policy*, University of Colorado-Boulder, in February 2003.

“On the Alleged Irrationality of Ethical Intuitionism: Are Ethical Intuitions Epistemically Suspect?” *64th Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Philosophical Society*, Kansas City, MO, November 2002.

AWARDS AND GRANTS

EKU College of Letters, Arts & Social Sciences Excellence in Research and Creative Activities Award, 2018

“Character Essay and Book Prize” from The Character Project for *Being Good: Christian Virtues for Everyday Life*, with Doug Geivett (Eerdmans, 2012), June 2013.

“Humility: A Study in Analytic Moral Theology,” Research Grant from The Character Project, Wake Forest University, The John Templeton Foundation, \$50,666: 2012-2013

Critical Thinking Teacher of the Year Award Nominee, 2012

Golden Apple Teaching Award Nominee, 2011

National Endowment for the Humanities, Enduring Questions Course Grant, “Do we need God for the good life?” \$24,096: Summer 2009-Summer 2011

EKU College of Arts & Sciences Excellence in Research and Creative Activities Award, 2008

EKU College of Arts & Sciences Junior Faculty Summer Research Award, 2006

McNair Community Fellow LOVE Award (for outstanding McNair mentors), 2004

Graduate Teacher Program Certification, University of Colorado, 2003

Departmental Nominee for Teaching Excellence Award, University of Colorado, 2002

The Robert N. Oliver Award in Systematic Theology, 2000 (Given to the student with the best work for the year in the Department of Systematic Theology, Talbot School of Theology)

Phi Beta Kappa, 1990

SELECTED SERVICE

University

Member of EKU Forward, 2018-present

Member of IACUC, 2012-2015

Coordinator, “Faculty Ethics,” Professional Learning Community, 2010-2011.

Member of Internal Review Board, Fall 2009-Spring 2011

Member of the Retention and Graduation Task Force (appointed), Fall 2006-Spring 2008

Member of the EKU Center for Environmental Education Advisory Board, 2005-2007

EKU Reads Project, Discussion Group Leader, 2005

PLUS Mentoring Program Mentor, 2004-2005

College

Curriculum Committee, 2017-2018

Research and Faculty Development Committee, 2016-2018

Promotion and Tenure Committee, 2012-2013.

Academic Integrity Committee, 2010-2011

Strategic Planning and Budget Committee, 2006-2008

Curriculum Committee, 2006

Planning Group, Environmental Issues Theme for General Education, 2006

New General Education Program Assessment Workshop, 2005

Department

Promotion and Tenure Committee, 2018-present
Philosophy Advisor, 2016-present
Committee of the Whole, 2004-present
Philosophy Club Debate Participant, “Should there be reparations for slavery in the United States?” February 2013
Search Committee Chair, Ethics search, 2007, 2008
Search Committee, Eastern Thought search, 2006
General Education Assessment, Course Coordinator for PHI 130 and PHI 240, 2005-2006
Department Newsletter Committee, 2004-2006
Department Committee on Academic Practices, 2004-2006
Proposal Coordinator for General Education Curriculum, PHI 130, 240, 363, and 385, 2005-2006
Philosophy Club Debate Participant, “When Should the U.S. Engage in Political Assassination?” November 2005
Philosophy Club Co-Advisor, 2004-2005
Philosophy Club Debate Participant, “Should the U.S.A. Permit Same-Sex Marriages or Same-Sex Civil Unions?” October 2004

Profession

President, Evangelical Philosophical Society, 2018-present
Executive Council, Evangelical Philosophical Society, 2014-2017
Executive Council, International Association for the Philosophy of Sport, 2008-2011
Member, American Philosophical Association Committee on Public Philosophy, 2008-2011
Speaker, Speakers Bureau of the Kentucky Humanities Council, 2006-2008, 2009, 2015-present
Book review editor, ethics, *Philosophia Christi*, 2018-present
Reviewer for *Ethics*, *Bioethics*, *Public Affairs Quarterly*, *Social Theory and Practice*, *Religious Studies*, *Journal of Religious Ethics*, *Journal of Applied Philosophy*, *The Journal of Value Inquiry*, *Hypatia*, *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, *Theoria*, *Philosophia Christi*, *Philosophia*, *Sport, Ethics and Philosophy*, *Philosophical Papers*, *Humanities*, *Reason Papers*, Rowman and Littlefield, Springer, Palgrave Macmillan, University Press of Kentucky, Thomson Wadsworth, Oxford University Press, and Prentice Hall.

Professional Affiliations

American Philosophical Association
Centre of Theology and Philosophy
Evangelical Philosophical Society
International Association for the Philosophy of Sport
Society of Christian Philosophers