

Libby Southgate

she/her/hers

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AOS

Ethics (incl. metaethics)

Philosophy of Education

AOC

Epistemology (esp. social/moral)

Feminist Philosophy

Political Philosophy

Academic Employment

Assistant Professor of Philosophy, *Franklin & Marshall College*, 2025–present.

Postdoctoral Faculty Fellow, Brady Program in Ethics and Civic Life, *Northwestern University*, 2023–2025.

Education

PhD in Philosophy, *Cornell University*, 2016–2023.

Committee: Julia Markovits (Chair), Emad Atiq, Nico Silins, Harry Brighouse.

Dissertation Title “Papers Concerning Moral Disagreement”

MA in Philosophy, *Cornell University*, 2016–2019.

MSc in Philosophy with Distinction, *The University of Glasgow*, 2014–2015.

Supervisor: Michael Brady.

MA in Philosophy with 1st Class Honours (undergraduate), *The University of Glasgow*, 2010–2014.

Supervisor: Adam Rieger.

Publications

“Rethinking Anonymous Grading”, *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* (2023).

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10677-023-10415-y>

“Living on the Edge? Strong Modesty Won’t Allow It”, *Mind* (forthcoming, pending minor revisions)

Work in Progress

Metaethics

A paper arguing that cognitive penetration helps moral realists better account for disagreement.

A paper exploring the possible attractions of an (epistemically) skeptical moral realism.

Epistemology (Broadly Construed)

A paper about attitudes in democratic epistemology.

A paper about the tension between standpoint epistemology and classical epistemology.

A paper about feminist epistemology and trusting chatbots (co-authored).

Applied Ethics/Philosophy of Education

A paper about risk, value disagreement, and parental partiality.

Talks and Presentations

“Trusting Chatbots and Feminist Epistemology” (Co-Authored w. Alicia Patterson, Oregon State)

International Association for Computing and Philosophy (Annual Conference), 2026

Thinking with Machines, Virginia Commonwealth University, 2026 (unable to attend).

“Flourishing, Learnability, and the Ends of Education” (Co-Authored w. David O’Brien, UW Madison)

North American Association for Philosophy & Education (Annual Meeting), 2025.

Author Meets Critics: Anthony Laden’s “Networks of Trust”

American Philosophical Association (central), Philosophy of Education Soc. Session, 2025 [invited].

Purposes of Higher Education (Panel)

North American Association for Philosophy & Education (Annual Meeting), 2024.

“Risk and Legitimate Parental Partiality”

Idaho State University, 2025 [invited].

Trinity College (CT), 2025 [invited].

Oberlin College, 2025 [invited].

North American Association for Philosophy & Education (Annual Meeting), 2024.

“On Objectivity as a Democratic Epistemic Virtue”

UW Madison, 2024 [invited].

Politics, Philosophy, and Economics Society (Seventh Annual Meeting), 2023.

North American Association for Philosophy & Education (Annual Meeting), 2023 [invited].

“Re-Thinking Anonymous Grading”

American Philosophical Association (Central Meeting), Colloquium, 2023.

Northeastern Philosophy of Education Society (Annual Meeting), 2022.

AAPT Teaching Hub Poster Session, American Philosophical Association (Pacific), 2021.

“Moral Disagreement, Intuitionism, and Cognitive Penetration”

Ethics, Epistemology, & Where They Come Together, Jilin University, China [zoom covid-19] 2021.

Sage School Workshop Series, Cornell University, 2020 [invited].

American Philosophical Association (Pacific), Colloquium, 2019.

“Democracy, Education, and Epistemology”

American Philosophical Association (Eastern), Philosophy of Education Soc. Session, 2020 [invited].

American Philosophical Association (Pacific), Philosophy of Education Soc. Session, 2019 [invited].

American Educational Research Association (Annual Meeting), 2019.

Comments and Chairing [all invited]

Comments: manuscript workshop on Ryan Cox’s “Justice and Equality in Education”, *Harvard*, 2026.

Comments: Justin Koon’s “Brief Debunking Argument”, *American Philosophical Association* (Eastern), 2023.

Session Chair: *Mad-Meta*, UW Madison, 2023, 2024.

Comments: Matt Duncan’s “Getting Acquainted with Art”, *Cornell Workshop in Mind and Value*, 2022.

Honors, Fellowships, and Awards

Sage Dissertation Completion Fellowship, *Cornell University*, Fall 2022.

John Knight Award for Exercises to Teach Writing, *Knight Institute for Writing in the Majors* (Cornell), 2021.

Sage Fellowship, *Cornell University*, 2019–2020.

McPherson Fellowship, *Center for Ethics and Education* (UW Madison), 2018–2019.

Sage Fellowship, *Cornell University*, 2016–2017.

Arthur Jones Memorial Prize, *The University of Glasgow*, 2014.

Caird Prize for Moral Philosophy, *The University of Glasgow*, 2014.

Thomas G Holt Prize for Excellence in Logic, *The University of Glasgow*, 2013.

Teaching

Introduction to Philosophy (introductory undergraduate)

Topics include critical thinking, skepticism, free will, and the good life.

[Franklin & Marshall College, Spring 2027]

Franklin & Marshall College, Spring 2026

Franklin & Marshall College, Fall 2025

The Good Life (introductory undergraduate)

Topics include wellbeing, meaning in life, the good life vs. the moral life, childhood, old age, and death.

Northwestern University, Winter 2025

Northwestern University, Winter 2024

Freshman Writing Seminar: Justifying Political Power (introductory undergraduate)

Introduction to college writing via philosophy about the justification of the state + civil disobedience.

Cornell University, Spring 2021

Cornell University, Fall 2020

Discussions of Justice: Justice, Equality, and Liberty in the US Now (introductory undergraduate)

Thinking about current issues via concepts and arguments from political philosophy.

Cornell University, Spring 2019.

Contemporary Ethics (intermediate undergraduate)

First course in ethics focused on three issues: (1) 'How much, when, and why do "the numbers" matter in ethics?' (2) valuing persons and personhood, and (3) moral responsibility.

Franklin & Marshall College, Spring 2026.

Epistemology (intermediate undergraduate)

First course in epistemology, starting with the Gettier problem and covering additional topics such as justification, skepticism, social epistemology, and political epistemology.

Franklin & Marshall College, Fall 2026.

Franklin & Marshall College, Fall 2025.

Political Philosophy (intermediate undergraduate)

First course in political philosophy covering topics such as the justification of the state, political liberalism and libertarianism, rights, liberty, autonomy, democracy, and equality.

[Franklin & Marshall College, Spring 2027.]

Disagreement (advanced undergraduate)

Advanced seminar about disagreement as an issue in metaethics, epistemology, and political philosophy.

Franklin & Marshall College, Fall 2026.

Feminism in Philosophy (advanced undergraduate)

Advanced seminar covering issues such as essentialism/anti-essentialism about gender, oppression and privilege, feminist epistemology, care ethics, etc.

Franklin & Marshall College, Spring 2026

Northwestern University, Fall 2024 (advanced undergraduate/graduate)

Philosophy of Education (advanced undergraduate/graduate)

Advanced seminar covering issues such as the just distribution of education, the role of education in a democracy etc.

Northwestern University, Fall 2023

Current Work in Philosophy (advanced undergraduate)

Seminar for majors centered around work from visiting speakers.

[Franklin & Marshall College, Spring 2027.]

Franklin & Marshall College, Fall 2026.

Non-Philosophy Teaching

Safety Committee, Chicago Mountaineering Club, 2025–present.

Graduate Resident Fellow, William Keeton House, Cornell University, 2019–2023.

Rock Climbing and Ice Climbing Instructor, Cornell Outdoor Education, Cornell University, 2017–2023.

English as a Foreign Language Instructor, Project International, Summer 2013 and 2014.

Service

Program Committee, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, *Franklin & Marshall*, 2025–present.

Co-Founder, Co-Organizer, and Mentor, Philosophy Graduate Mentoring Program, *Cornell*, 2018–2023.

Graduate Student Recruitment Visit Organizer, Sage School of Philosophy, *Cornell*, 2022.

Workshop Session Leader, “Sensitive Topics”, MAP Inclusive Pedagogy Series, *Cornell*, 2021.

Vice President, Philosophy Graduate Representative Board, *Cornell*, 2019–2021.

Workshop Session Leader, “Inclusive Grading”, MAP Inclusive Pedagogy Series, *Cornell*, 2020.

Faculty Liaison, Philosophy Graduate Representative Board, *Cornell*, 2017–2018.

Professional Development

Courses/Workshops

Teaching via Discussion, Faculty Center, *Franklin & Marshall College*, Fall 2025.

Mentoring Up + Down, Office for Postdoctoral Affairs, *Northwestern University*, Winter 2025.

Reimagining Assessment, Searle Center, *Northwestern University*, Spring 2024.

Teaching Writing, Knight Institute for Writing in the Majors, *Cornell University*, Summer 2020.

Teaching and Learning in the Diverse Classroom, Center for Teaching Innovation, *Cornell University*, 2019.

Summer Schools etc.

Summer School in Philosophy of Education, *Philosophy of Education Society of Great Britain* (Zoom), 2021.

Athena in Action, *Cornell University* (Zoom), 2020.

Graduate Institute in Philosophy of Education, *Center for Ethics and Education* (UW Madison), 2018.

Summer School in Moral Epistemology, *Central European University* (Hungary), 2018.

European Summer School in Logic, Language, & Information, *Toulouse Capitole University* (France), 2017.

References

Research

Julia Markovits, Cornell University, markovits@cornell.edu.

Emad Atiq, Cornell University, eha47@cornell.edu.

Harry Brighouse, UW Madison, mhbrigho@wisc.edu.

Teaching/Student Engagement

Kyla Ebels-Duggan, Northwestern University, kebelsduggan@u.northwestern.edu.

Tad Brennan, Cornell University, tad.brennan@cornell.edu.

For reference letters you can contact philosophy.placement@cornell.edu.
