

BRANDON MORGAN-OLSEN

Curriculum Vitae

Simpson Center for the Humanities
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Appointments

- 2011- Biological Futures Research Associate, University of Washington (Program on Values)
2010-2011 Postdoctoral Fellow in Democracy and Diversity, Queen's University (Philosophy Dept.)

Education

- 2004–2010 University of Washington
PhD, Philosophy, June 2010
Dissertation: “Listening in Public: Duties of Civility in a Pluralistic Democracy”
Committee: Michael Blake (supervisor), William Talbott, Alison Wylie, and Michael Rosenthal
MA, Philosophy, June 2006
2000 Sophia University (Tokyo, Japan)
Semester Abroad, March – August 2000
1997–2001 Grinnell College
BA, Philosophy, honors; Phi Beta Kappa

Areas of Specialization: Social and Political Philosophy, Ethical Theory

Areas of Competence: Philosophy of Science, Applied Ethics, Philosophy of Human Rights

Publications

Morgan-Olsen, B. (2010). Conceptual Exclusion and Public Reason. *Philosophy of the Social Sciences*, 40(2).

I demonstrate here that a type of exclusion I call ‘conceptual exclusion’ creates the potential for public reason constraints to further exclude marginalized groups. I argue that taking conceptual exclusion seriously requires both a revision of traditional accounts of public reason and a re-conceptualization of our civic obligations.

Morgan-Olsen, B. (forthcoming 2012). Habermas, Rawls, and the Public “Translation” of Religious Claims. *Science et Esprit*, winter.

The act of matching nonpublic claims with equivalent public claims is significant for both Habermas’s work on the role of religion in the public sphere and for Rawls’s “duty of civility”. I investigate here what a detailed account of this “translation” of nonpublic claims might look like, especially for purposes of political inclusion.

Current Projects

“A Duty to Listen: Epistemic Obligations and Public Deliberation” (revise and resubmit – *Social Theory and Practice*)

The obligation that citizens must only offer “public” reasons into political discourse is traditionally taken by political liberals to fall on the citizen as *speaker* – as an individual who forwards political arguments. I argue here that those who accept this obligation for speakers must accept a corresponding civic obligation on listeners – a duty to attempt to identify public reasons within others’ presented arguments.

“Public ‘Translation’ As Inclusion: Habermas, Rawls, and Generative Citizenship” (under review)

This article builds on and extends the argument presented in Morgan-Olsen (forthcoming 2012), listed above.

BRANDON MORGAN-OLSEN

Invited Presentations

- 2011 “Habermas, Rawls, and the Public ‘Translation’ of Religious Claims,” Queen’s Philosophy Colloquium (Queen’s University, ON)
- 2011 “A Listener’s Duty,” 2011 Political Theory Workshop (Centre de Recherche en Éthique de l’Université de Montréal, QC)

Selected Peer-Reviewed Conference Presentations

- 2011 “The Burdens of Interpersonal Justification,” The American Philosophical Association 2011 Eastern Division Meeting (Washington, D.C.)
- 2011 “Distinguishing Dissent from Difference,” Pacific Northwest Political Science Association 2011 Annual Conference (Seattle, WA)
- 2011 “Habermas, Rawls, and the Public ‘Translation’ of Religious Claims,” Canadian Jacques Maritain Association Religion in Public Life Symposium (Congress of the Social Sciences and Humanities 2011, NB)
- 2009 “Habermas on the Public ‘Translation’ of Religious Claims,” Seventeenth Annual Critical Theory Roundtable (Stony Brook University, NY)
- 2009 “Epistemic Injustice and Public Reason,” Eleventh Annual Philosophy of Social Science Roundtable (Emory University, GA)
- 2008 “Making Waves in Configuration Space,” Nature and Structure: Graduate Conference in Philosophy of Physics (SUNY Buffalo, NY)

Honors and Awards

- 2010-2011 **Postdoctoral Fellowship in Democracy and Diversity** (Queen’s University Philosophy Dept.)
One twelve-month appointment awarded per year as postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Philosophy. The appointee works under the supervision of Will Kymlicka in connection with the Diversity and Democracy program of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research.
- 2009-2010 **Alvord Fellowship in the Humanities** (UW College of Arts and Sciences)
One fellowship awarded per year, on the basis of the academic merit of the dissertation project and crossing disciplinary lines. Each competitor is the sole nominee from their department.
- 2007-2009 **Science Studies Network Research Assistantship** (UW Simpson Center for the Humanities)
- Autumn 2008 **Science Studies Network Graduate Fellowship** (UW Simpson Center for the Humanities)
- 2008 **Teaching Award** (UW Department of Philosophy)
- 2004 **Top Scholar Award** (UW Graduate School)
- Summer 2001 **Boone Scholars Internship for East Asian Studies** (The Field Museum of Natural History)
- 1997-2001 **Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship** (Grinnell College)

Teaching Experience as Primary Instructor (2007-2011)

Contemporary Moral Philosophy: Respect, Tolerance, and Civility, Queen’s University
Philosophy of Human Rights, University of Washington
Introduction to Philosophy, University of Washington
Introduction to Philosophy, Everett Community College

BRANDON MORGAN-OLSEN

Teaching Experience as Teaching Assistant (2004-2007; all at the University of Washington)

Introduction to Ethical Theory (*twice*, with Stephen Gardiner, and with Jean Roberts)
Environmental Ethics (with Andrew Light)
Introduction to Philosophy (*twice*, with Michael Rosenthal, and with Ann Baker)
Contemporary Moral Problems (*twice*, with Michael Blake, and with Adam Moore)
Introduction to Logic (*twice*, with Arthur Fine, and with Cass Weller)

Service and Administration

2009-2010 Society of Scholars (UW Simpson Center for the Humanities)
2008-2009 Job Search Committee (UW Department of Philosophy)
2008 Asst. Organizer: Expanding Interdisciplinarity Conference (University of Washington)
2008 Asst. Organizer: 10th Annual Phil. of Social Science Roundtable (University of Washington)
2007-2010 Science Studies Network (UW Simpson Center for the Humanities)
2007-2008 Graduate Student Representative (UW Department of Philosophy)
2006-2007 Coach, UW Intercollegiate "Ethics Bowl" Team (National and Regional Competitions)

References

Will Kymlicka, Professor and Canada Research Chair in Political Philosophy, Queen's University
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Alison Wylie, Professor, Departments of Philosophy and Anthropology, University of Washington
(206) 543-5873 | aw26@uw.edu
Michael Rosenthal, Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Washington
(206) 685-2655 | rosentha@uw.edu
Arthur Fine, Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Washington
(206) 543-6496 | afine@uw.edu

Selected Coursework (for a full list of courses taken, see 'Curriculum Vitae' at tiny.cc/BrandonMorgan-Olsen)

Identity in Democracy (audited)	Michael Blake
International Ethics	Michael Blake
The Priority of Liberty (audited)	William Talbott
Philosophy of Jürgen Habermas (audited)	William Talbott
Philosophy of Human Rights	William Talbott
Moral Psychology and Moral Agency	Angela Smith
Neo-Aristotelian Virtue Ethics	Angela Smith
Aristotle's <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i>	Jean Roberts
Contemporary Political Philosophy	Stephen Gardiner
Philosophy of Paul Tillich	Robert Coburn
Moralism, Tolerance, and Neoliberalism (audited)	Gillian Harkins (English Dept.)
Objectivity	Arthur Fine
Philosophy of Physical Science: Quantum Mechanics	Arthur Fine
Inter-Theoretic Relations (audited)	Andrea Woody
Survey in the Philosophy of Science (audited)	Andrea Woody