

MICAH E. LOTT

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Associate Professor of Philosophy, Boston College, 2018–Present
Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Boston College, 2012–2018

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Philosophy, University of Chicago, 2011
M.A. Theology and Biblical Studies, Fuller Theological Seminary, 2003
B.A. Philosophy and History, *summa cum laude*, University of Georgia, 2001

FELLOWSHIP

Faculty Fellow, Notre Dame Institute for Ethics and the Common Good, 2024-2025

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Ethics, Meta-Ethics

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Political Philosophy, Philosophy of Religion, Ancient Philosophy

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- “Why AGI Could Not Be (Just) a Tool: Goals, Life, and General Intelligence”
- with William Hasselberger *Inquiry* (2024) 1-26.
- “Are Life Forms Real? Aristotelian Naturalism and Biological Science”
- with Jennifer Lockhart *Synthese* (2024) 203: 1-33.
- “AI, Common Sense, and Human Practical Intelligence” s
- with William Hasselberger *Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences* (2023).
- “Practical Intelligibility and Moral Skepticism: Should Realists Worry About Grass-Counters and Hand-Claspers?” *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly* (2021) 102: 103-124.
- “Eudaimonism, Egoism, and Responsibility for Oneself” *Journal of Philosophical Research* (2020).
- “Moral Duties as Divine Commands: Is Kantian Religion Coherent?” *Faith and Philosophy* (2020) 37: 57-76.
- “Must Realists be Skeptics? An Aristotelian Reply to a Darwinian Dilemma” *Philosophical Studies* (2018) 175: 71-96.

- “Moral Implications from Cognitive (Neuro)science? No Clear Route” *Ethics* (2016) 127.1: 241-256.
- “Agency, Patiency, and Human Happiness” *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* (2016) 19: 773-786.
- “Is there a Role for ‘Human Nature’ in Debates about Human Enhancement?”
- with Daniel Groll *Philosophy* (2015) 90: 623-651.
- “Morality, Accountability, and the Wrong Kind of Reason” *Utilitas* (2015) Nov: 1-13.
- “Because I Said So: Varieties of Practical Relevance in Plato’s *Crito*” *Polis: Journal for Ancient Greek Political Thought* (2015) 32: 3-31.
- “Why Be a Good Human Being? Natural Goodness, Reason, and the Authority of Human Nature” *Philosophia* (2014) 42: 761-777.
- “Situationism, Skill, and the Rarity of Virtue” *Journal of Value Inquiry* (2014) 48: 387-401.
- “Labor Exploitation, Living Wages, and Global Justice: An Aristotelian Account” *Journal of Catholic Social Thought* (2014) 11: 329-259.
- “Does Human Nature Conflict with Itself? Human Form and the Harmony of the Virtues” *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* (2013) 87: 657-683.
- “Moral Virtue as Knowledge of Human Form” *Social Theory and Practice* (2012) 38: 407-431.
- “Have Elephant Seals Refuted Aristotle?” *Journal of Moral Philosophy* (2012) 9: 353-375.
- “Ignorance, Shame and Love of Truth: Diagnosing the Sophist’s Error in Plato’s *Sophist*” *Phoenix: Journal of the Classics Association of Canada* (2012) 26: 36-56.
- “Restraint on Reasons and Reasons for Restraint: A Problem for Rawls’ Ideal of Public Reason” *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly* (2006) 87: 75-95.

Book Chapters

- “Can We Leave Nature Behind?” *Philosophical Engagements with Modernity: A Festschrift for Robert Pippin*. Eds. Dan Conway and Jon Stewart. Brill. (forthcoming)
- “Your Life as a Whole: Narrative and the Human Good” in *After Virtue at 40*. Ed. Tom Angier (2023) Cambridge University Press.
- “Is Moral Education a Craft? Poiesis, Praxis, and Ethical Upbringing” in *Teleological Structures in Human Life: A Festschrift for Anselm Müller*. Ed. Christian Kietzmann. (2023) Routledge.

- “Elizabeth Anscombe on the Knowledge of Human Dignity” in *The Oxford Handbook of Elizabeth Anscombe*. Ed. Roger Teichmann. (2022) Oxford University Press.
- “The Comic Sword of Truth and Justice: Humor as a Moral Virtue” in *Neglected Virtues*. Eds. Glen Pettigrove and Christine Swanton. (2022) Routledge.
- “The Virtues of Attachment” co-authored with Keith Cox, in *Attachment and Character: Attachment Theory and the Developmental Psychology of Vice and Virtue*. Ed. Edward Harcourt. (2022). Oxford University Press.
- “Aristotelian Naturalism and the Autonomy of Ethics” in *Aristotelian Naturalism: A Research Companion*. Ed. Martin Hähnel. (2020). Springer.
- “Foot’s Grammar of Goodness” in *Philippa Foot on Goodness and Virtue*. Ed. John Hacker-Wright (2018) Palgrave-Macmillan.
- “How political are virtue and happiness?” in *Aristotle’s Practical Philosophy: On the Relationship Between the Ethics and Politics*. Eds. Cohen de Lara and Brouwer (2017) Springer.
- “Justice, Function, and Human Form” in *Normativität des Lebens - Normativität der Vernunft?* Eds. Hähnel and Rothhaar (2015) DeGrutyer.

Reviews

- “Constructing a Good Life” *Journal of Moral Philosophy* 13.3 (2016) 363-375.*
- “Explaining Value: Nagel on Normative Realism and Historical Teleology” *Expositions: Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities* 8.2. (2014) 26-37.†
- Jonathan Sanford *Before Virtue: Assessing Contemporary Virtue Ethics* (2015). Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews.

Writing for a General Audience

- “The Future of Catholic Universities in the Age of AI” (July 2023; co-authored) (<https://www.sacru-alliance.net/the-future-of-catholic-universities-in-the-age-of-ai/>)
- “The system isn’t broken. It’s fixed.” *Religions* 8.4 (April 2017). Contribution to interdisciplinary symposium on economic inequality.
- “The Dignity and Priority of Labour in *Laborem Exercens*” *Comment: Public Theology for the Common Good* (March: 2012).

* 5,000-word review essay on Mark LeBar’s *The Value of Living Well*.

† 5,000-word contribution to a symposium on Thomas Nagel’s *Mind and Cosmos*.

- “Persons, Property, and Creation in Catholic Social Thought” *Comment: Public Theology for the Common Good* (October: 2011).
- “Natural Virtue and Civic Life in *The Hurt Locker*” *The Point Magazine* (2010)

Works in Progress

- Living Well: Biology, Teleology, and Virtue” forthcoming in *The Routledge Companion to the Philosophy of Human Nature*. Ed. Neil Roughley.
- “Anscombe on Human Fallenness” forthcoming in *Elizabeth Anscombe and the Christian Moral and Intellectual Tradition* Eds. Marshall Bierson and Joshua Stuchnik.

INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH PROJECTS

- “Health and Healthcare as Common Goods: Philosophical Perspectives and Clinical Practices in Kampala, Uganda and Boston, United States.” (2024-2025) Funded by BC Schiller Institute for Integrated Science and Society. Co-PI, Prof Tom Crea, BC Social Work.
- “AI Companions, Vulnerability, and the Ethics of Care.” Grant application submitted to National Endowment for the Humanities. Awaiting decision.
- “Digital Afterlives? Mourning, Memory, and AI Grief-Tech” Grant application submitted to Notre Dame-IBM Tech Ethics Lab. Awaiting Decision.

TEACHING

Boston College

Happiness and Utopia	Spring 2022 & 2023 & 2024
The Value of Work	Autumn 2021 & 2023
What is Democracy and What is it Worth?	Autumn 2020 & 2022 & 2023
Borders and Refugees: The Ethics of Migration	Summer 2022 & 2023
Good and Evil	Spring 2021
Mass Incarceration: Philosophical Perspectives	Spring 2021
Kant’s <i>Religion within the Boundaries of Mere Reason</i>	Autumn 2017
Contemporary Aristotelian Ethics	Autumn 2016 & 2020
Kant’s Moral Philosophy	Spring 2016
What is Moral Knowledge?	Autumn 2015 & Spring 2020
The Virtue of Justice	Autumn 2014
The State of Nature and the Nature of the State	Autumn 2014
Hume’s Moral Philosophy (graduate tutorial)	Spring 2014
Science, Brains, and Ethics	Spring 2014
Consequentialism and its Critics	Autumn 2013
Contemporary Aristotelian Naturalism	Spring 2013
Kant and Kantians on the Moral Law	Autumn 2012

Person and Social Responsibility*	Autumn & Spring 2012-2013 Autumn & Spring 2013-2014 Autumn & Spring 2015-2016 Autumn & Spring 2016-2017 Autumn & Spring 2017-2018 Autumn & Spring 2019-2020 Autumn & Spring 2019-2020 Autumn & Spring 2020-2021
Teaching Seminar Facilitator	
<u>Dharmaram Vidya Kshestram (Bangalore, India)</u> Philosophies of Love: Aquinas and Kierkegaard	Summer 2017
<u>Asian University for Women (Chittagong, Bangladesh)</u> The State of Nature and the Nature of the State Introduction to Ethics Introduction to Political Philosophy	Spring 2012 Autumn 2011 & Spring 2012 Autumn 2011
<u>University of Chicago</u> Human Being and Citizen Philosophical Foundations of Human Rights Human Rights and Human Nature Morality and the Meaning of Life Divine Command Ethics (Junior/Senior Seminar)	Spring 2011 Autumn 2010 Spring 2010 Winter 2010 Winter 2008
<u>MA Thesis Supervisor, Boston College</u> Orrin Page: 2021- 2022	
<u>Senior Thesis Supervisor, Boston College</u> Zhirui Duan: 2023-24 Thomas Carrabes: 2023-2024 Rose Silva: 2021-2022 Rayan Habab: 2019-2021 Rebecca Swofford: 2019- 2020 Michael Chin: 2017- 2018 Christine Qin: 2016- 2017 James Andreoli: 2016-2017 Lucas Perry: 2015-2016 Charles Groome: 2014-2015 Erin Curran Autumn: 2013- 2014	
SERVICE ACTIVITIES (SELECTED)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director of Undergraduate Studies in the Philosophy Dept, BC: 2021-2024. • Head of organizing committee for LaBrecque Medical Ethics Lecture: 2020-present. • Co-leader of SACRU inter-disciplinary working group “AI, Agency, and the Human Good” (2021-present) 	

* Two-semester course.

- Reviewer for: *Philosophical Quarterly*, *Synthese*, *Journal of Philosophical Research*, *European Journal of Philosophy*, *Social Theory and Practice*, *Neuroethics*, *Journal of Value Inquiry*, *Philosophia*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Journal of the APA*