

Curriculum Vitae, W. Jared Parmer

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Department of Philosophy
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Areas of Research Specialization

Ethics (esp. meaning in life, ethics of technology), Philosophy of Action

Areas of Teaching Competence

Applied Ethics, Metaethics, Philosophy of Mind, Existentialism, Nietzsche

Education

Ph.D. Philosophy, Stanford University. Successfully defended May 2021.

- Dissertation: *Making Meaning*.
- Co-chairs: Nadeem J.Z. Hussain and Michael E. Bratman.

Visiting Researcher, Freie Universität Berlin. October 2020–September 2021.

Visiting Researcher, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. October 2018–December 2019.

M.S. Applied Economics, Florida State University. 2013.

B.A. Philosophy (*summa cum laude*), Florida State University. 2012.

Publications (* = anonymously refereed)

“Manipulative Design Through Gamification”, in Fleur Jongepier and Michael Klenk (eds.), *Manipulation Online* (Routledge, forthcoming).

* “Meaning in Life and Becoming More Fulfilled”, in *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy* (forthcoming).

* “Nietzsche and the Art of Cruelty”, in *Journal of Nietzsche Studies* 48.3 (2017): 402–29.

Dissertation Abstract

Making Meaning is comprised of four self-standing papers that, together, lay the groundwork for exploring how technological design can help or hinder us in living meaningful lives. Paper 1 defends a modest subjectivist theory about meaning in life, according to which the process of becoming (more) fulfilled makes a person’s life (more) meaningful for her, independently of whatever objective value her relationships, projects, etc. have. Paper 2 analyzes meaning in life as what accrues to our life while we successfully cope with an enduring practical problem that stems from an overinvestment in tasks, the pursuit of which is a self-destructive exercise of planning agency; and the solution is the pursuit of open-ended aims, motivated by personal ideals that we clarify in the pursuit itself. Paper 3 analyzes nudging as a form of design that enables reasoning with specific heuristics, and argues that inducing such reasoning need not undermine autonomy, but can still be manipulative. Paper 4 analyzes gamification as a species of nudging and argues that these forms of influence count as manipulative design, when they do, because they induce reasoning and acting that serves the designers’ hidden purposes.

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Research Employment History

Research and Knowledge Exchange Intern, MIND Foundation in Berlin. April–September 2021.

Research Intern, Cologne Institute for Economic Research. Summer 2017.

- Under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Dominik H. Enste (Technische Hochschule Köln, Universität zu Köln), Behavioral Economics and Business Ethics Research Group

Research Assistant, Florida State University. Autumn 2013.

- Under the supervision of Prof. Stefan Norrbin for a consultation project with the Florida Senate

Presentations and Workshops (* = anonymously refereed)

“Manipulative Design Through Gamification”

- * *Manipulation Online* digital workshop series. March 2021.
- Colloquium in Theoretical Philosophy, Freie Universität Berlin. February 2021.

“Meaningfulness as Final Personal Value of Lives”

- * Third International Conference on Philosophy and Meaning in Life, University of Birmingham (UK). July 2020. (*digital and asynchronous due to COVID-19*)

“Nudges, Nudging, and Self-Guidance under the Influence”

- * Kongress der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Philosophie XXV, Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg. September 2021. (*delayed due to COVID-19; withdrew*)
- * European Congress of Analytic Philosophy 10, Universiteit Utrecht. August 2020. (*digital and asynchronous due to COVID-19*)
- * Society for Applied Philosophy Annual Conference, University of Edinburgh. July 2020. (*cancelled due to COVID-19*)
- PPE Workshop, Stanford University. March 2020. (*cancelled due to COVID-19*)
- Work-in-Progress Lunch, Cologne Institute for Economic Research. July 2017.

“Living for the Future”

- Colloquium in Practical Philosophy, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. May 2019.

“Meaning, Luck, and the Good” / “Luck in Aspirational Agency”

- Colloquium in Practical Philosophy, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. November 2018.
- Moral/Political Philosophy Work-in-Progress Group, Stanford University. August 2018.

“Hard Choices, Practical Certainty, and Ignorance Masquerading as Parity”

- * Conference on Hard Cases and Rational Choice, Universität Bern. November 2017.

“The Ways of Valuing” / “Valuing and Evaluatively Believing”

- * Understanding Value VI, University of Sheffield, UK. July 2017.
- Fourth-Year PhD Philosophy Student Talk Series, Stanford University. May 2017.

“Funniness, Motivation, and the Guise of a Reason”

- * Berkeley-Stanford-Davis Grad Conference, University of California-Davis. April 2017.

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Commentary

Comments on Mikkel Gerken's "Salient Alternatives and Epistemic Injustice in Folk Epistemology" at the Varieties of Agency Workshop, Stanford University. January 2020.

Comments on Hunter Gentry's "Embedded Love" at the 11th Annual Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, University of Colorado, Boulder. August 2018.

Comments on Ruth Chang's "Hard Choices" at the Political Theory Workshop, Stanford University. April 2017.

Academic Awards, Grants, Fellowships, and Honors

- Stanford-Freie Universität Berlin Exchange Fellowship. 2020–2021.
- DAAD Long-Term Research Grant. 2018–19.
- The Europe Center at Stanford University Research Grant. Summer 2016.
- The Patrick Suppes Fellowship in the Philosophy of Science. 2014–2018.
- Mikels and Shaffer Award, given to the top student in each cohort of the MS in Applied Economics at Florida State University. 2013.
- Kaul Foundation Graduate Assistantship. 2012–2013.
- Phi Beta Kappa. 2008.

Teaching and Mentoring Experience

Instructor, Stanford University: Love, Friendship, and Social Construction. Lower-division. Winter 2018.

Mathematics tutor at Santa Fe College: pre-college algebra through college trigonometry and pre-calculus. Summer 2008 and Autumn 2012.

Graduate-student resident mentor, Stanford-CCNY Exchange Program. Summer 2015.

Aided exchange students from CCNY in transitioning to full-time research for their summer projects, including conflict mediation, writing mentorship, and fostering time-management skills.

Teaching assistant, Stanford University:

- Introduction to Moral Philosophy for Barry Maguire. Lower-division. Spring 2020.
- Philosophy and Literature for John Holliday and Héctor Hoyos. Lower-division. Winter 2020.
- Philosophy of Action for Michael Bratman. Upper-division. Winter 2018.
- Introduction to Philosophy for Nadeem Hussain. Lower-division. Spring 2016.
- Mind, Matter, Meaning for Nadeem Hussain. Lower-division. Autumn 2015.
- Mind, Matter, Meaning for Kenneth Taylor. Lower-division. Spring 2015.
- Philosophy of Language for Mark Crimmins. Upper-division. Autumn 2014.

Teaching assistant, Florida State University:

- Introduction to Financial Economics for Milton Marquis. Upper-division. Summer 2013.
- Intermediate Macroeconomics for Don Schlagenhauf. Upper-division. Spring 2012.

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Graduate Coursework Relevant to Teaching Competencies (* = audited)

COURSE	FORMAT	PROFESSOR	TERM
Existentialism	lecture	R. Lanier Anderson	Spring 2014
Philosophy of Action	lecture	Michael Bratman	Spring 2014
Epistemic Relativism	seminar	Krista Lawlor	Spring 2014
Nietzsche	seminar	R. Lanier Anderson	Autumn 2014
Korsgaard and Her Critics	seminar	Tamar Schapiro	Autumn 2014
Kant's First Critique	lecture	Graciela De Pierris	Spring 2015
Introduction to Metaethics	lecture	Nadeem Hussain	Winter 2016
Normativity and Disagreement	seminar	David Plunkett	Autumn 2016
*Nagel, Korsgaard, and Nietzsche	seminar	Jorah Dannenberg	Winter 2017
*Morals and Motives	seminar	Barry Maguire	Autumn 2017

Professional Service

Graduate-Student Faculty Liaison (with John Turman) at Stanford. 2015–16.

Event Coordinator for Grad Student Society in the Philosophy Department at Stanford. 2014–15.

Non-Academic Refereed Publication

“This Mustang, Who Speaks For Her” (short fiction), *Kudzu Review*, Spring 2012; republished in *plain china's* online anthology, Best Undergraduate Writing of 2013

(url= plainchina.bennington.edu/pieces/this-mustang-who-speaks-for-her/).

Languages

English (native), German (intermediate, approximately CEFR B2)

References with Letters of Recommendation Prepared

Important: for letter requests, please email Jill Covington, Graduate Student Services coordinator in the Stanford Department of Philosophy, at jillj@stanford.edu

Michael E. Bratman

Durfee Professor in the School of Humanities and Sciences, Stanford University

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Prof. Dr. Thomas Schmidt

Professor, Institut für Philosophie, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Unter den Linden 6, Raum 3043, D-10999 Berlin, Germany

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Nadeem J.Z. Hussain

Associate Professor of Philosophy and, by courtesy, German Studies, Stanford University

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Additional Reference

Barry Maguire

Senior Lecturer in Philosophy, The University of Edinburgh

Dugald Stewart Building, 3 Charles Street, Edinburgh EH8 9AD, United Kingdom

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