

Curriculum Vitae, W. Jared Parmer

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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

Employment

Postdoctoral Researcher in Applied Ethics, RWTH Aachen University. November 2021–October 2023.

- Under the direction of Saskia Nagel.

Education

Ph.D. Philosophy, Stanford University. Conferral date June 13, 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)

* “Nudges, Nudging, and Self-Guidance Under the Influence”, in *Ergo* (forthcoming).

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

* “Meaning in Life and Becoming More Fulfilled”*, in *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy* 20.1 (2021): 1–29.

* “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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Presentations and Workshops (* = anonymously refereed)

“Meaningful Work and Achievement in Increasingly Automated Workplaces”

- Colloquium, Forschungszentrum Jülich. March 2022.

“Meaning and the Shape of a Life”

- * Philosophy and Meaning in Life IV, University of Pretoria. January 2022.

“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”

- * Philosophy and Meaning in Life III, University of Birmingham (UK). July 2020.

“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.
- * 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. 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.

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/).

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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. 2013.
- Kaul Foundation Graduate Assistantship. 2012–2013.
- Phi Beta Kappa. 2008.

Teaching and Mentoring Experience

Primary instructor:

- The Ethics of Manipulation. Interdisciplinary Master's seminar, RWTH Aachen University. Summer 2022.
- Love and Friendship. Lower-division tutorial, Stanford University. Winter 2018.

Master's student project supervisor, RWTH Aachen University: Niloofar Hashemi on meaningful experiences and 'slow design', including colloquium session and research paper. Winter 2022.

Mathematics tutor, 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.

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.

Languages

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

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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

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Prof. Dr. Thomas Schmidt

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Nadeem J.Z. Hussain

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Additional Reference

Barry Maguire

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