

# Elizabeth Harman

Department of Philosophy  
Princeton University  
1879 Hall  
Princeton, NJ 08544

## Areas of Specialization:

Ethics

## Areas of Competence:

Metaphysics, Epistemology, Political Philosophy

## Employment

Assistant Professor of Philosophy and the University Center for Human Values, Princeton University,  
July 2006-present

Laurance S. Rockefeller Visiting Fellow, University Center for Human Values, Princeton University,  
2006-2007

Assistant Professor of Philosophy, New York University, September 2003-June 2006

## Education

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, PhD in Philosophy, September 2003

Harvard University, AB *summa cum laude* in Philosophy, June 1997

## Publications

“Harming As Causing Harm.” In Harming Future Persons. Ed. Melinda Roberts and David Wasserman.  
Springer: (forthcoming).

“Critical Notice of *Better Never to Have Been: The Harm of Coming Into Existence* by David Benatar.”  
Nous (forthcoming).

“Discussion of Nomy Arpaly’s *Unprincipled Virtue*.” Philosophical Studies 134.3 (2007): 433-439.

“How is the Ethics of Stem Cell Research Different from the Ethics of Abortion?” Metaphilosophy 38.2-  
3 (2007): 207-225.

“Sacred Mountains and Beloved Fetuses: Can Loving or Worshipping Something Give It Moral Status?”  
Philosophical Studies 133.1 (2007): 55-81.

“Can We Harm and Benefit in Creating?” Philosophical Perspectives 18 (2004): 89-113.

“The Potentiality Problem.” Philosophical Studies 114.1-2 (2003): 173-198.

“Creation Ethics: The Moral Status of Early Fetuses and the Ethics of Abortion.” Philosophy and Public  
Affairs 28.4 (1999): 310-324.

## Invited Papers

- Ohio State University, May 2008, "Harming as Causing Harm"
- University of Vermont, April 2008, "Harming as Causing Harm"
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Fourth Annual MIT Philosophy Conference, January 2008, "The Mistake in 'I'll Be Glad I Did It' Reasoning: The Significance of Future Desires"
- Human Nature and Bioethics Workshop, Hong Kong, December 2007, "Which Hardships Must Parents Prevent?"
- Princeton-Rutgers Graduate Conference, March 2007, Keynote Address, "Does Vegetarianism Rest on a Mistake?"
- Harvard University, November 2006, "How is the Ethics of Stem Cell Research Different From the Ethics of Abortion?"
- Rutgers University, April 2006, "Does Blameless Ignorance Exculpate?"
- Yale Legal Theory Workshop, April 2006, "The Mistake in 'I'll Be Glad I Did It' Reasoning: Why Curing Deafness isn't Wrong, and Aborting You or Me Wouldn't Have Been Either"
- Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference, April 2006, "Does Blameless Ignorance Exculpate?"
- Arizona Ontology Conference, January 2006, "Ethics As a Guide to Metaphysics?"
- City University of New York, December 2005, "The Mistake in 'I'll Be Glad I Did It' Reasoning: The Significance of Future Desires"
- University of California, Santa Barbara, November 2005, "The Mistake in 'I'll Be Glad I Did It' Reasoning: The Significance of Future Desires"
- New York University Colloquium in Legal, Political and Social Philosophy, November 2005, "The Mistake in 'I'll Be Glad I Did It' Reasoning: The Significance of Future Desires"
- John Hopkins University and National Institute of Health Joint Bioethics Colloquium, November 2005, "The Potentiality Problem" and "Creation Ethics: The Moral Status of Early Fetuses and the Ethics of Abortion"
- Boalt Hall School of Law, University of California, Berkeley, October 2005, "The Mistake in 'I'll Be Glad I Did It' Reasoning: Why Curing Deafness isn't Wrong, and Aborting You or Me Wouldn't Have Been Either"
- Acadia University, September 2005, "The Mistake in 'I'll Be Glad I Did It' Reasoning: Why Curing Deafness isn't Wrong, and Aborting You or Me Wouldn't Have Been Either"
- Nassau Community College, May 2005, "Sacred Mountains and Beloved Fetuses: Can Love or Worship Give Something Moral Status?"
- Princeton University, April 2005, "A Reflection Principle for Desires?"
- Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference, April 2005, "A Reflection Principle for Desires?"
- Princeton University Center for Human Values, November 2004, "Sacred Mountains and Beloved Fetuses: Can Love or Worship Give Something Moral Status?"
- Manhattan Marymount College, October 2004, "Creation Ethics: The Moral Status of Early Fetuses and the Ethics of Abortion"
- University of Massachusetts, Amherst, May 2004, "Vagueness and the Moral Status of Fetuses"
- Union College, April 2004, "Vagueness and the Moral Status of Fetuses"

Princeton University, Fall 2003, "Parfit's Non-Identity Problem," guest lecture for the course *Philosophy of Religion*

Brandeis University, February 2003, "The Non-Identity Problem"

Brown University, February 2003, "The Non-Identity Problem"

New York University, February 2003, "The Non-Identity Problem"

University of British Columbia, Vancouver, February 2003, "The Non-Identity Problem"

University of Calgary, February 2003, "The Non-Identity Problem"

University of Toronto, February 2003, "The Non-Identity Problem"

### **Other Presentations**

Comments on "The Ethics of Morphing" by Caspar Hare, Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, August 2008

Panel Discussion, "Freedom of Choice and the Right to Life", Conference on "Moral Conflict and the Free Society," Princeton University, May 2008

Panel Discussion, "Is It Wrong to End Early Human Life?" Princeton University, May 2008

"The Mistake in 'I'll Be Glad I Did It' Reasoning: The Significance of Future Desires," Symposium Paper, Eastern APA Meeting, December 2007

Comments on Bonnie Steinbock's "Designer Babies," DeCamp Bioethics Seminar, Princeton University, October 2007

Comments on "Identity in 4D" by Thomas Sattig, Central APA, April 2007

Comments on "Identifying and Dissolving the Non-Identity Problem" by Rivka Weinberg, Pacific APA, April 2007

Comments on "Is There a Human Right to Free Movement? Immigration and Original Ownership of the Earth" by Mattias Risse and Michael Blake, Program in Ethics and Public Affairs, Princeton University, October 2006

Comments on "Inquiry as a Social Form" by Christopher Tollefsen, Princeton University, Conference in Honor of Josef Raz, October 2006

Comments on "Normative Appeals to the Natural" by Pekka Vayrynen, Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, August 2006

Comments on "Structural Equations and Causation" by Ned Hall, NYU Causation Conference in Florence, Italy, June 2006

"Sacred Mountains and Beloved Fetuses: Can Love or Worship Give Something Moral Status?" Symposium Paper, Pacific APA Meeting, March 2006

"Sacred Mountains and Beloved Fetuses: Can Love or Worship Give Something Moral Status?" Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, August 2005

Comments on "Moral Intuitions" by Dale Jamieson, NYU/University of Amsterdam Conference in Ethics, July 2005

"The Mistake in 'I'll Be Glad I Did It' Reasoning: The Significance of Future Desires," On-line Philosophy Conference, May 2006

“What’s Wrong with Bullshit?” Keynote Address with Sarah McGrath, Bellingham Student Philosophy Conference, May 2005

Comments on “Moral Influence, Moral Responsibility“ by Manuel Vargas, Pacific APA Meeting, March 2005

Comments on “Moral Treatment of Animals” by Martha Nussbaum, Cardozo School of Law, March 2005

Comments on “Epistemic Objectivity” by Paul Boghossian, SOFIA “Ought!” Conference, January 2005

Comments on “Futures-Like-Ours, Time-Relative Interests, and Abortion” by David DeGrazia, Eastern APA Meeting, December 2004

Comments on “Actual Utility, the Objection from Impracticality, and the Move to Expected Utility” by Fred Feldman, Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, August 2004

Comments on “An Epistemic Theory of Acquaintance” by James Pryor, NYU Consciousness Conference in Florence, June 2004

Comments on “Skepticism, Contextualism, and a Puzzle about Seeing” by Ram Neta, Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference, April 2004

Comments on “Contractarianism and Contribution or Why Talents Matter ‘Somewhat’” by Cynthia Stark, Pacific APA Meeting, March 2004

“The Non-Identity Problem,” Louisiana State University Symposium on Theoretical and Applied Ethics, February 2004

Comments on “Metaphysics and Cross-Cultural Semantics” by Ron Mallon, Shaun Nichols, Stephen Stich and Eduard Machery, Florida State University Conference on Folk Concepts, January 2004

“The Non-Identity Problem,” Eastern APA Meeting, December 2003

“The Non-Identity Problem,” Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, August 2003

Comments on “Degrees of Influence and the Problem of Preemption” by Cei Maslen, Inland Northwest Philosophy Conference, April 2003

“The Potentiality Problem,” Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, August 2002

Comments on “Events and their Properties” by Andrew Egan, Central APA Meeting, April 2002

"Can We Do Applied Ethics First?" Pacific APA Meeting, March 2002

Comments on “Now and Forever” by Steven Savitt, Pacific APA Meeting, March 2002

Comments on “When is Death Bad for the One Who Dies?” by Ben Bradley, Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, August 2001

“The Baby Problem,” Pacific APA Meeting, March 2001

“Creation Ethics: The Moral Status of Early Fetuses and the Ethics of Abortion,” Symposium Paper, Eastern APA Meeting, December 2000

## Teaching Experience

Assistant Professor, Princeton Department of Philosophy and University Center for Human Values

*Perfecting Life* (an undergraduate bioethics course), Fall 2007 (with Adam Elga), Fall 2008

*The Ethics of Desire* (a graduate seminar), Spring 2008

*Can We Rely on Intuitions in Ethics?* (a junior seminar), Fall 2008 (two sections)

*Ethics* (a graduate seminar), Spring 2009

Assistant Professor, NYU Department of Philosophy

*Ethics* (an undergraduate introduction to ethics), Fall 2003, Fall 2004, Spring 2006

*Ethics: Selected Topics* (a graduate course discussing doing versus allowing, the doctrine of double effect, the moral significance of distance, and the role of intuitions in moral argument), Fall 2003

*Topics in Ethics and Political Philosophy* (an upper-level undergraduate course discussing doing versus allowing, the doctrine of double effect, the moral significance of distance, and the role of intuitions in moral argument), Spring 2004

*Proseminar*, with Sharon Street (a first-year graduate course reading some of the central works of 20<sup>th</sup> Century philosophy), Fall 2004

*Ethics: Selected Topics*, with Derek Parfit (a graduate course discussing whether certain ethical theories are self-defeating, the rationality of attitudes towards time, and our obligations to future generations), Fall 2004-Spring 2005

*Senior Honors Seminar* (a course for senior honors students beginning work on their theses), Fall 2005

*Causation* (a graduate course discussing the metaphysics of causation), Spring 2006

Instructor

*Logic and Reasoning*, Center for Talented Youth, University of California, Santa Cruz, Summer 2000

*Oops, I Did It Again: Fun with Lies, Half-truths, and Deliberate Deceptions* (a two-hour seminar), with Sarah McGrath, MIT Independent Activities Period, January 2001

*How To Fight With Your Younger Self* (a two-hour seminar), MIT Independent Activities Period, January 2001

### **Service at Princeton**

*Hiring Committee, Philosophy Department, 2007-2008*

*Committee on Hiring a Bioethics Postdoc, University Center for Human Values, 2006-2007*

*Organizer of DeCamp Bioethics Talks, Spring 2007 and Spring 2008*

*Committee on Hiring in Philosophy and Public Affairs, University Center for Human Values, 2007-2008*

*Old Dominion Fellow, Princeton Council of the Humanities, Fall 2006-Spring 2008*

### **Department Service at NYU**

*Committee on Hiring a Junior Candidate, 2003-2004, 2004-2005, 2005-2006*

*Committee on the new Philosophy Department Building, 2004-2005*

*Committee on Graduate Admissions, 2003-2004, 2004-2005*

### **University Service at NYU**

*College of Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Mentoring Program, NYU, 2003, 2004*

*Committee on NYU's Joint Project with audible.com, 2005-2006*

## **Other Professional Activities**

*Organizer*, Corridor, Fall 2003-present

A monthly metaphysics and epistemology paper workshop for sixteen faculty at Princeton, Rutgers, NYU, and Columbia

*Co-organizer*, Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, August 2007

*Co-organizer*, NYU Causation Conference in Florence, Italy, June 2006

*Referee* for *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, *Ethics*, *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*, *Nous*, *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosopher's Imprint*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, and *Philosophical Studies*

*Referee* for MIT Press and Pennsylvania State University Press