Elizabeth Harman

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Princeton University
1879 Hall
Princeton, NJ 08544

Area of Specialization:

Ethics

Areas of Competence:

Metaphysics, Epistemology, Political Philosophy

Employment

Associate Professor of Philosophy and the Center for Human Values, Princeton University,
July 2010-present

Laurance S. Rockefeller Preceptor, Princeton University, July 2009-present

Assistant Professor of Philosophy and the Center for Human Values, Princeton University,
July 2006-June 2010

Laurance S. Rockefeller Fellow, 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

"Creation Ethics: The Moral Status of Early Fetuses and the Ethics of Abortion." Philosophy and Public
Affairs 28.4 (1999): 310-324.
Reprinted in Contemporary Moral Problems. Ed. James E. White Wadsworth (2005): 138-147.

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

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

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

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

"Discussion of Nomy Arpaly's *Unprincipled Virtue*." Philosophical Studies 134.3 (2007): 433-439.

"Harming as Causing Harm." *In* Harming Future Persons. Ed. Melinda Roberts and David Wasserman.
Springer (2009): 137-154.

"Critical Study of *Better Never to Have Been: The Harm of Coming Into Existence* by David Benatar." Nous 43.4 (2009): 776-785.

"'I'll Be Glad I Did It' Reasoning and the Significance of Future Desires." Philosophical Perspectives 23 (2009): 177-199.

"Is It Reasonable to 'Rely on Intuitions' in Ethics?" *In* Norton Introduction to Philosophy. Ed. Alex Byrne, Joshua Cohen, Gideon Rosen, and Seana Shiffrin. Norton (forthcoming).

"The Significance of Animal Death." *In* Oxford Handbook on Ethics and Animals. Ed. Tom L. Beauchamp and R. G. Frey. Oxford (forthcoming).

"Fischer and Lamenting Non-existence." Social Theory and Practice (forthcoming).

Papers Presented

University of California, Los Angeles, May 2011, Invited Paper

Oberlin College, March 2011, Invited Paper

Yale Law School, February 2011, Invited Paper

Princeton Undergraduate Bioethics Conference, November 2010, Keynote Address, "Creation Ethics"

University of Texas, Austin, May 2010, "Does Moral Ignorance Exculpate?"

Pacific APA, April 2010, "Good and Bad 'I'll Be Glad I Did It' Reasoning"

Rutgers University, Workshop on Methodology, March 2010, "Is It Reasonable to 'Rely on Intuitions' in Ethics?"

Intergenerational Justice Conference, Frankfurt, Germany, February 2010, "Harming as Causing Harm"

Eastern APA, December 2009, "Harm, Abortion, and Failure to Procreate"

Connecticut College, November 2009, "Does Killing an Animal Harm It?"

Chapel Hill Colloquium, UNC, October 2009, "'I'll Be Glad I Did It' Reasoning and the Significance of Future Desires"

Program in Law and Public Affairs, Princeton University, September 2009, "Does Moral Ignorance Exculpate? Can We Blame the Honest Sexist, Homophobe, or Abortion Opponent?"

Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, August 2009, "'I'll Be Glad I Did It' Reasoning and the Significance of Future Desires"

Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, August 2009, "'I'll Be Glad I Did It' Reasoning and the Significance of Future Desires"

City University of New York Graduate Conference, April 2009, Keynote Address, "On Blameworthiness for Not Believing the Moral Truth"

New York Society for Women and Philosophy, March 2009, "How Can We Blame the Honest Sexist, Homophobe, or Abortion Opponent?"

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"

Eastern APA Meeting, December 2007, Symposium Paper, "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 Universtiy, November 2006, "How is the Ethics of Stem Cell Research Different From the Ethics of Abortion?"

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

Rutgers University, April 2006, "Does Blameless Ignorance Exculpate?"

Yale Law School 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?"

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

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 Law School 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" and "Sacred Mountains and Beloved Fetuses: Can Love or Worship Give Something Moral Status?"

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"

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

Bellingham Student Philosophy Conference, May 2005, Keynote Address with Sarah McGrath, "What's Wrong with Bullshit?"

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"

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

Eastern APA Meeting, December 2003, "The Non-Identity Problem"

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

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"

Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, August 2002, "The Potentiality Problem"

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

Pacific APA Meeting, March 2001, "The Baby Problem"

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

Other Presentations

Pacific APA Meeting, April 2011, Comments on "An Uncompromising Connection between Practical Reason and Morality" by Michael Nelson

Pacific APA Meeting, April 2009, Comments on "Facts and Principles of Justice" by Jeppe von Platz

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SOFIA "Ought!" Conference in Mexico, January 2005, Comments on "Epistemic Objectivity" by Paul Boghossian

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

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

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

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

Pacific APA Meeting, March 2004, Comments on "Contractarianism and Contribution or Why Talents Matter 'Somewhat'" by Cynthia Stark

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

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

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

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

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

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

Teaching Experience

Associate Professor, Princeton Department of Philosophy and Center for Human Values

    Ethics Requiring Metaphysics, with Sarah McGrath (a graduate course), Spring 2011

    Sex and Ethics, with Gideon Rosen (an undergraduate course), Spring 2011

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

    Morality in the Face of Moral Ignorance (a graduate course), Spring 2009

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

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

    The Ethics of Desire (a graduate course), Spring 2008

Assistant Professor, NYU Department of Philosophy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 one-time two-hour seminar), with Sarah McGrath, MIT Independent Activities Period, January 2001

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

Honors

Behrman Fellow, Council of the Humanities, Princeton University, July 2010-present

Laurance S. Rockefeller Preceptor, Princeton University, July 2009-present

Old Dominion Fellow, Princeton University, 2006-2007 and 2007-2008

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

Submitted Paper selected as Symposium Paper at American Philosophical Association Meetings in 2007, 2006, and 2000

Service at Princeton

Council of the Princeton University Community, Executive Committee, Fall 2010-present

Council of the Princeton University Community, Fall 2010-present

Supplemental Placement Support, Philosophy Department, 2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2010-2011

Organizer or co-organizer of Women in Philosophy Dinners, Spring 2011, Fall 2010, Spring 2010, Fall 2008

Behrman Fellow, Council of the Humanities, Fall 2010-present

Committee on Hiring in Philosophy and Public Affairs, Center for Human Values, 2007-2008, 2008-2009, 2009-2010

Organizer of DeCamp Bioethics Talks, Spring 2007 and Spring 2008

Colloquium Committee, Philosophy Department, 2008-2009

First-round selection of Visiting Faculty Fellows, Center for Human Values, 2008-2009

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Philosophy Department, 2007-2008, 2008-2009

Hiring Committee, Philosophy Department, *2007-2008*

Committee on Hiring a Bioethics Postdoc, Center for Human Values, 2006-2007, 2009-2010

Old Dominion Fellow, 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

Service to the Profession

Co-organizer, Corridor, Fall 2003-present
   A monthly metaphysics and epistemology paper workshop for twenty faculty at Princeton, Rutgers, NYU, and Columbia

Co-organizer, Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, August 2010, August 2007

Co-editor, Special Issue of *Philosophical Studies* devoted to the 2010 Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference

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*, *Philosophical Studies*, and *Philosophy Compass*.

Referee for MIT Press and Pennsylvania State University Press