

Brandon Warmke

Hamilton School of Classical and Civic Education
University of Florida
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Areas of Specialization: Ethics, Moral Psychology, Social and Political Philosophy

Areas of Competence: Applied Ethics, Philosophy of Religion, History of Philosophy

Employment

Associate Professor, Hamilton School of Classical and Civic Education, University of Florida, 2025-present.

Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, Bowling Green State University, 2021-2025.

Visiting Scholar in Conservative Thought and Policy, Benson Center for the Study of Western Civilization, University of Colorado Boulder, Spring 2024.

Sabbatical Fellow, Benson Center for the Study of Western Civilization, University of Colorado Boulder, Fall 2023.

Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Bowling Green State University, 2016-2021.

Postdoctoral Research Associate, The Experience Project, University of Notre Dame, 2015-2016.

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, The Character Project, Wake Forest University, 2014-2015.

Education

Ph.D. in Philosophy, University of Arizona, 2014.

Ph.D. Program in Philosophy, Florida State University, 2007-2010.

M.A. in Philosophy, Northern Illinois University, 2006.

B.A., Moody Bible Institute, 2002.

Research

Books

Conservatism: The Basics, under contract, Routledge.

Why It's OK to Mind Your Own Business (with Justin Tosi), 2023, Routledge.

Forgiveness and Its Moral Dimensions (co-edited with Dana Kay Nelkin and Michael McKenna), 2021, Oxford University Press.

Grandstanding: The Use and Abuse of Moral Talk (with Justin Tosi), 2020, Oxford University Press.

Selected media coverage and reviews: New York Times Magazine, Forbes, Commentary Magazine, Christianity Today, The Washington Free Beacon, National Review, NPR, C-SPAN2 Book TV, CBC Radio, LA Review of Books, Times Literary Supplement.

Translations: Portuguese, Korean, Arabic, Chinese (forthcoming)

Papers

32. "What Do We Do When We Say 'I forgive you'?" forthcoming, *Forgiveness*, ed. Adam Green, Oxford University Press.
31. "Commencement Speech Morality," 2025, *Social Philosophy & Policy* 42: 144-162.
30. "Neighborliness and Hospitality," 2024, *Cosmos + Taxis*.
29. "Worship and Veneration" (with Craig Warmke), 2024, *The Philosophy of Worship: Divine and Human Aspects*, eds. Aaron Segal and Samuel Lebens, Cambridge University Press.
28. "Saving the World Starts at Home," 2023, *Georgetown Journal of Law and Public Policy* 21: 769-785.
27. "Performative Accounts of Forgiveness," 2023, *Routledge Handbook of Forgiveness*, eds. Robert Enright and Glen Pettigrove, Routledge, 155-172.
26. "Don't Block the Exits" (with Justin Tosi), 2022, *New Directions in the Ethics and Politics of Speech*, ed. J.P. Messina, Routledge, 50-60.
25. "Does Forgiveness Require Forswearing Resentment?" 2022, *Conflict and Resolution: The Ethics of Forgiveness, Revenge, and Punishment*, eds. Paula Satne and Krisanna Scheiter, Springer, 121-141.
24. "Moral Grandstanding, Narcissism, and Self-Reported Responses to the COVID-19 Crisis," Joshua B. Grubbs, **Brandon Warmke**, Justin Tosi, A. Shanti James, 2022, *Journal of Research in Personality*, (104187): 1-10.
23. "Conservative Critiques," (with Justin Tosi), 2022, *Routledge Companion to Libertarianism*, eds. Ben Ferguson and Matt Zwolinski, Routledge, 579-592.
22. "Responsibility and Situationism," 2022, *Oxford Handbook of Moral Responsibility*, eds. Dana Nelkin and Derk Pereboom, Oxford University Press, 468-493.
21. "Forgiveness: An Introduction," (with Dana Kay Nelkin and Michael McKenna), 2021, *Forgiveness and Its Moral Dimensions*, Oxford University Press (9,000 words).
20. "Moral Grandstanding as a Threat to Free Expression," (with Justin Tosi), 2020, *Social*

Philosophy and Policy 37:2, 170-189.

Media Coverage: VICE News

19. "Moral Grandstanding and Political Polarization: A Multi-Study Consideration," Joshua B. Grubbs, **Brandon Warmke**, Justin Tosi, A. Shanti James, 2020, *Journal of Research in Personality* 88: 104009.
18. "Moral Grandstanding in Public Discourse: Status Seeking Motives as a Potential Explanatory Mechanism in Predicting Conflict," (Joshua B. Grubbs, **Brandon Warmke**, Justin Tosi, A. Shanti James, W. Keith Campbell), 2019, *PLOS One*.

Media Coverage: Vox, Scientific American, The Irish Times, The Guardian

17. "Stump's Forgiveness," 2019, *European Journal for Philosophy of Religion* 11: 145-163.
16. "God's Standing to Forgive," 2017, *Faith and Philosophy* 34: 381-402.
15. "Divine Forgiveness I: Emotion and Punishment-Forbearance Theories," 2017, *Philosophy Compass*.
14. "Divine Forgiveness II: Reconciliation and Debt-Cancellation Theories," 2017, *Philosophy Compass*.
13. "Does Situationism Threaten Free Will and Moral Responsibility?" (with Michael McKenna), 2017, *Journal of Moral Philosophy* 14: 698-733.
12. "Forgiveness" (with Paul Hughes), 2017, *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (14,000 words).
11. "Punishment and Forgiveness" (with Justin Tosi), 2017, *Routledge Handbook of Criminal Justice Ethics*, eds. Jonathan Jacobs and Jonathan Jackson, New York: Routledge, 203-216.
10. "Moral Grandstanding," (with Justin Tosi), 2016, *Philosophy & Public Affairs* 44: 197-217.

Media coverage: HuffPost, Slate (France), The Atlantic, Scientific American, The Guardian

9. "The Normative Significance of Forgiveness," 2016, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy* 94: 687-703.
8. "The Economic Model of Forgiveness," 2016, *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly* 97: 570-589.
7. "Articulate Forgiveness and Normative Constraints," 2015, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* 45: 490-514.
6. "Situationism versus Situationism" (with Travis J. Rodgers), 2015, *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* 19: 9-26.
5. "Two Arguments Against the Punishment-Forbearance Account of Forgiveness," 2013, *Philosophical Studies* 165: 915-920.

4. "Moral Responsibility, Forgiveness, and Conversation" (with Michael McKenna), 2013, *Free Will and Moral Responsibility*, eds. Ishtiyaque Haji and Justin Caouette. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 189-212.
3. "Is Forgiveness the Deliberate Refusal to Punish?" 2011, *Journal of Moral Philosophy* 8: 613-620.
2. "Moral Responsibility Invariantism," 2011, *Philosophia* 39: 179-200.
1. "Artifact and Essence," 2010, *Philosophia* 38: 595-614.

Popular Writing

- "Shame on You! Moral grandstanding is more than tiresome. It's pushing people to extremes," (with Justin Tosi), 7 December 2020, *Persuasion*.
- "Moralizing to Impress," (with Justin Tosi), 2020, *The Philosophers' Magazine* 91: 46-52.
- "The Immorality of Moral Showcasing," (with Justin Tosi), 4 November 2020, *Discourse Magazine*.
- "The Art of the Grandstand: Solving social problems comes a built-in paradox" (with Justin Tosi), 12 August 2020, *City Journal*.
- "It's our own fault that politicians don't come up with policies that actually fix problems" (with Justin Tosi), 6 July 2020, *MarketWatch*.
- "Moral Grandstanding and the Will to Power," Spring 2020, *The Philosopher*.
- "Oscar acceptance speeches: When moral outrage verges on grandstanding," 10 February 2020, CNN.
- "Why there are costs to moral outrage," (with Justin Tosi), 19 June 2017, *The Conversation* (Republished by *Newsweek*, *Salon*, *The Huffington Post*, *Live Science*).
- "Moral Grandstanding: there's a lot of it about, all of it bad," (with Justin Tosi), 10 May 2017, *Aeon*.

Reviews

- "An Altar Call for Liberals," Review of Alexandre Lefebvre, *Liberalism as a Way of Life*, Law & Liberty, 3 October 2024.
- Review of Kate Manne, *Entitled: How Male Privilege Hurts Women*, 2022, *Journal of Moral Philosophy* 19(1): 85-90 (with Joshua B. Grubbs).
- Review of Judith Andre, *Worldly Virtue: Moral Ideals and Contemporary Life*, 15 August 2015, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*.
- Review of Robert Hinde, *Bending the Rules: Morality in the Modern World from Relationships to Politics to War* (Oxford University Press), 2010, *Philosophical Psychology* 23: 129-132.

Awards

2020 Exceptional Scholarship Award, Heterodox Academy (with Justin Tosi)

Talks

“Grandstanding: The Use and Abuse of Moral Talk”

- Ethics in Public Life Annual Lecture, The Center for Practical Ethics, University of Mississippi, April 2025.

“Christianity and Effective Altruism”

- Eastern APA, New York, January 2025

“Why Almost All Talk about Virtue and Vice-Signaling Is a Mess”

- Eastern APA, New York, January 2025

“Commencement Speech Morality”

- Alice McDermott Memorial Lecture in Applied Ethics, United States Air Force Academy, April 2024

“How to Moralize”

- Center for Values and Public Policy, University of Colorado Boulder, April 2024

“On the Dangers of Being a Moralizer and a Busybody”

- Center for the Study of the Government and the Individual, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, March 2024

“The Costs of Moralizing”

- McDonough School of Business, Georgetown University, February 2024

“The Costs of Moralizing”

- Hamilton Center for Classical and Civic Education, University of Florida, February 2024

“Too Much Morality? On the Dangers of Being a Moralizer and Busybody”

- Department of Philosophy and Religion, Christopher Newport University, October 2023

“Why You Shouldn’t Be a Moralizer”

- 47th Annual Midwest Philosophy Colloquium, University of Minnesota Morris, April 2023

“The Costs of Moralism: Why It’s OK to Mind Your Own Business”

- Department of Philosophy, West Virginia University, March 2023

“Moral Grandstanding: Why Status-Seeking Destroys Public Discourse and What We Can Do About It”

- Benson Center for the Study of Western Civilization, University of Colorado Boulder, January 2023

“Saving the World Starts at Home”

- Symposium on Markets, Social Entrepreneurship, and Effective Altruism, Georgetown Institute for the Study of Markets and Ethics, November 2022
- “The Costs of Moralism”
- Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society, November 2022
- “Don’t Block the Exits”
- UNC-Chapel Hill, Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Speaker Series, November 2021
- “Grandstanding: The Use and Abuse of Moral Talk”
- Georgia State University, The Jean Beer Blumenfeld Center for Ethics, April 2021
- “Grandstanding and Corporate Activism”
- Trinity College Dublin, School of Business, December 2020
- “Politics as Morality Pageant”
- Pepperdine University, School of Public Policy, December 2020
- “Moral Grandstanding and Corporate Activism”
- Berges Lecture Series in Business Ethics, University of Notre Dame Mendoza College of Business, October 2020
- “Grandstanding Apart: How Status-Seeing Divides Us”
- Wake Forest University, Department Talk, October 2020
- “Worship and Veneration” (with Craig Warmke)
- Conference on Jewish Worship and the Divine, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, August 2019
 - Princeton University, Fall 2021
- “Moral Grandstanding as a Threat to Free Expression,”
- *Social Philosophy and Policy* Workshop, July 2019
- “Moral Grandstanding: It’s Worse than You Think”
- Creighton University Law School, February 2019
- “The Good News about Moral Grandstanding”
- The Future of Speech Online Conference, The Center for Democracy and Technology, Washington, D.C., December 2018
- “Forgiveness for Free Will Skeptics”
- Texas Tech University, Department Colloquium, November 2018
- “Who’s in Charge? How the World Around Us Threatens Our Freedom”
- Texas Tech University, Public Talk, November 2018
- “Moral Grandstanding as a Threat to Free Expression”
- American Association of University Professors 2018 Conference on the State of Higher Education, Arlington, VA

“Treating Solely and Treating Merely as a Means”

- 2018 APA Pacific, Book Symposium on Robert Audi’s *Means, Ends, and Persons*

“Stump’s Forgiveness”

- 2018 APA Central, Book Symposium on Eleonore Stump’s *Atonement*

“Resenting Those You Love”

- Love in Religion Colloquium, Regents Park College, Oxford University, November 2016

“God’s Standing to Forgive”

- 2016 Theistic Ethics Workshop, Georgetown University, October 2016

“Moral Grandstanding” (with Justin Tosi):

- APA Pacific, March 2015
- North Carolina Philosophical Society, NC State University, March 2015
- Northern Illinois University, Philosophy Department Colloquium, October 2015
- University of Michigan, Mind & Moral Psychology Working Group, February 2016

“Why is Generosity a Virtue?”

- Conference on Neglected Virtues in Honor of Rosalind Hursthouse, University of Auckland, August 2015

“Forgiving and Forswearing Resentment”/“Strawsonian Forgiveness”

- Monash University, Philosophy Department, August 2015
- University of Sydney, Philosophy Department, August 2015
- Ohio University, Philosophy Department, January 2016
- Bowling Green State University, Philosophy Department, February 2016

“The Economic Model of Forgiveness”

- APA Pacific, 2013

“Revenge, Forgiveness, and College Life”

- Young Harris College Ethics Awareness Week, March 2013

“The Curious Case of Oscillating Adam: Grounding Principles in Consequence Arguments”

- Workshop on Joseph Campbell’s *Free Will*, University of Arizona, March 2012

Grants

\$42,302: “Public Discourse Ethics: The Philosophy and Psychology of Moral Grandstanding—Stage I,” Charles G. Koch Foundation, 2017-2018

- PI: Joshua Grubbs (BGSU, Psychology), Co-PIs: Brandon Warmke, Justin Tosi (Texas Tech, Philosophy)

\$165,000: “Public Discourse Ethics: The Philosophy and Psychology of Moral Grandstanding—Stage II,” Charles G. Koch Foundation, 2019-2020.

- PI: Joshua Grubbs (BGSU, Psychology), Co-PIs: Brandon Warmke, Justin Tosi (Texas Tech, Philosophy)

\$8,418: “Why It’s Okay to Mind Your Own Business,” Institute for Humane Studies, Free Speech and Open Inquiry Grant, Summer 2019

- PI: Brandon Warmke

\$14,000: “Grandstanding, Trust, and Polarization in the Wake of COVID-19,” Charles G. Koch Foundation, May 2020.

- PI: Joshua Grubbs (BGSU, Psychology), Co-PIs: Brandon Warmke, Justin Tosi (Texas Tech, Philosophy)

\$52,850: “Public Discourse Ethics: The Philosophy and Psychology of Moral Grandstanding—Stage III,” Charles G. Koch Foundation, 2020-2021.

- PI: Joshua Grubbs (BGSU, Psychology), Co-PIs: Brandon Warmke, Justin Tosi (Texas Tech, Philosophy)

References

Michael McKenna

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