

Jeremy Bendik-Keymer

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Post-secondary Education

Yale College, Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy,
Magna Cum Laude with distinction, 1993

Thesis: “‘[Greatness of Heart Is the True Human Greatness](#)’ – An Open Letter”

Advisor: Susan Neiman; Letters: Henry Allison, Karsten Harries, Jonathan Lear

The University of Chicago, Doctorate in Philosophy, 2002

Qualifying Essay: “The Practice of Freedom in Jean-Jacques Rousseau’s *Émile*”

First Reader: Candace Vogler,

Second Reader: Martha C. Nussbaum

Dissertation: [Conscience and Humanity](#)

Chair: Candace Vogler; Committee: Charles Larmore, Jean-Luc Marion, Martha C. Nussbaum

Selected Posts

Poetry Editor, *The Yale Literary Magazine*, 1990-1992

Writing Instructor, Little Red School House, University of Chicago, 1998-2000

Research assistant and secretary to Saskia Sassen, Department of Sociology, University of Chicago, 1999

Researcher, Reggio Emilia/Chicago Commons Head Start Schools Project, Erikson Institute for Advanced Study in Child Development, 1999-2002 (issued in Dan Scheinfeld, Sandra Scheinfeld and Karen Haigh, *We Are All Explorers: Learning and Teaching with Reggio Principles in Urban Settings*, New York: Teachers College Press, 2008)

Lecturer in the Common Core and in Environmental Studies, University of Chicago, 2000-2002

Assistant Professor of Philosophy, the Colorado College, 2002-05 (duties completed in 2004, permitted to be employed by American University of Sharjah, 2004-2005)

Assistant Professor of Philosophy, American University of Sharjah, 2004-2008 (joint

appointment with Le Moyne College, 2007-2008)

Visiting Scholar, Sciences Po (Paris Institute of Political Studies), 2006

Talk Show Host, *The Green Team*, Dubai Eye Radio, 2006-2007

Weekly columnist, *Emirates Today*, 2007

Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Le Moyne College, 2007-2010 (joint appointment with American University of Sharjah, 2007-2008)

Associate Professor of Philosophy, with tenure, Case Western Reserve University, 2010-2021

[Beamer-Schneider Professor in Ethics](#), Case Western Reserve University, 2010-2015, 2015-2020, 2020-2021

Visiting Professor of Philosophy, Hamilton College, 2014

Editorial Board, *Ethics & Bioethics (in Central Europe)*, 2016-

Series Editor, [Into Philosophy](#), *Blog of the APA* (American Philosophical Association), 2020-2023 (translated into Spanish for the Mexican publication *Filosofía en la Red* as of 2022)

Editorial board, *Environmental Ethics*, 2020-Professor of Philosophy, Case Western Reserve University, 2021-

Deputy Director, Balzan Prize Project on Animal Ethics, Capabilities, and the Law, Martha C. Nussbaum (prize winner & convener), University of Chicago Law School, 2022-25

Contributing Editor, *The Philosopher* (of the Philosophical Society of England), 2023

Visiting Professor, University of Wrocław, 2023

Associate Editor, *Environmental Philosophy*, 2024-

Series Editor, *Democracy as a Way of Life*, *Blog of the APA*, 2024-25

Current Topics

Love (relational reasoning), wonder (positive anxiety), justice (good relationships), being human (philosophical anthropology)

Scholarly Trajectory

Thoughtfulness has historically been the province of philosophy, with reasonableness being a core determination of humanity. Within that tradition, my work in philosophy

over the past thirty years has been about how thoughtlessness and thoughtfulness are primarily moral and empathetic determinations of being human. I see these as shaped largely by social structures and the practices that are possible within them, and so I have consistently been interested in analyzing thoughtlessness as an effect of social alienation and thoughtfulness as a virtue made possible by good (often institutionally awkward) education, capacious politics, and strong communities of equality, freedom, and care. Since 2006, I have argued that respect for all living beings and dignity-providing identification with lands, waters, and skies are implications of human sociality, the winning out of humankind as relatable rather than narcissistic.

My dissertation conceptualized some of the basic outlines of a shift in the sense of the person emerging within European culture in early modern philosophy, becoming institutionalized centuries later in the human rights movement of the 20th century. This shift involved the emergence of the notion of the sense of (common) humanity and the rise of sentimentalist re-orientations toward embodied relationships with others. At the heart of this shift was an increasingly clear differentiation between self and other, as if a culture had begun to grow out of narcissistic concepts predicated on the afterlives of hierarchical domination.

The last chapter of the dissertation, however, took the dissolution of narcissism further: beyond the human. The suggestion was that the process begun through the interpersonal differentiation of the sense of humanity found in other-directed conscience must lead to the increasing realization of living with Earth others, with all of life, and a corresponding differentiated relating to all of life on Earth through co-existence. My work since my dissertation has, without design at the time, been increasingly about this further freeing of the European human from narcissism.

The conceptual approach behind this trajectory is grounded in what I call “relational reasoning.” This is interpersonal reasoning guided by intuitive knowledge by acquaintance, and it sits alongside practical and theoretical reasoning with the former’s

know-how and the latter’s knowledge of what to believe. These processual forms structure human dynamism through goodness (the practical), truth (the theoretical), and (intimate, interpersonal) beauty (the relational). I discovered the logic of relational reasoning thanks to French phenomenology of the Other in the tradition of Buber and Levinas and twentieth century philosophy of action in the tradition of Anscombe. Analytic philosophers may find some resonances in Iris Murdoch, Lawrence Blum, and even Kieran Setiya’s midlife work.

Well known philosophical figures who have helped me see how relational reasoning leads the humane part of humankind include Kierkegaard for his direct addresses, Thoreau for his connection with nature, and Martin Luther King Jr., for his understanding of conscience. I’ve been additionally influenced by teachers such as the French activist-scholar Anne-Christine Habbard, Martha C. Nussbaum, Charles Larmore, Hagi Kenaan, and (for her work on Kant and the problem of evil in the 1990s and her books on *Vergangenheitsaufarbeitung*), Susan Neiman. The logic of relational reasoning was worked out learning from Candace Vogler, Irad Kimhi, and Lauren Tillinghast, and my understanding of wonder displays the influences of Karsten Harries, Jean-Luc Marion, and Reiner Schürmann’s scholarship. Within the many books I’ve written around environmental philosophy, my main focus has always been to develop an intimate philosophy of human dynamism where the world between us is the deciding factor in how we approach the world beyond us.

Books / Long-form Projects

1. (as a member of the research team who developed two chapters in) Daniel R. Scheinfeld, Karen M. Haigh, and Sandra J. P. Scheinfeld, [*We Are All Explorers: Learning and Teaching with Reggio Principles in Urban Settings*](#), New York: Teachers College Press, 2008
2. [*Conscience and Humanity*](#), a dissertation submitted to the University of Chicago Department of Philosophy, Ann Arbor: UMI/Pro-Quest, 2002

3. [*The Ecological Life: Discovering Citizenship and a Sense of Humanity*](#), Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2006
 - a. [Review by Allen Thompson](#) in *Environmental Ethics*, 29:4, 431-4, 2007
 4. [*Ethical Adaptation to Climate Change: Human Virtues of the Future*](#), co-editor with Allen Thompson, Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2012
 5. [*Solar Calendar, and Other Ways of Marking Time*](#), Brooklyn, NY: Punctum Books, 2017
 - a. Includes a revised version of [365 Earth Thoughts](#), 2010
 6. [*The Wind ~ An Unruly Living*](#), Brooklyn, NY: Punctum Books, 2018
 7. [*Involving Anthroponomy in the Anthropocene: On Decoloniality*](#), with an afterward by Julia D. Gibson, New York: Routledge, 2020
 - a. [Review by Harshavardhan Jatkar](#) in *Journal of Human Development and Capabilities*, 23:2, 321-3, 2022
 8. [*Into Philosophy*](#), co-editor with Sidra Shahid and Katherine Cassese, *Blog of the American Philosophical Association*, 2020-3, a series of mini-series where "stories exceed ideas," including *Genealogies of Philosophy* (ed., Shahid), *Starting Out in Philosophy* (ed., Cassese), *Precarity and Philosophy* (ed., Shahid)
 - a. [*Philosophy as a Way of Life*](#) (editor), a series examining *askesis* and forms of wisdom-seeking, with Joey Behrens, Marisa Diaz-Waian, Paul Blaschko, Caleb Cohoe, Julia Gibson, John Burt Sander, Bin Song, *Blog of the American Philosophical Association*, 2020-21
 - b. [*On Congeniality*](#) (editor), a series examining relational (inter/intra-personal) knowing by acquaintance, with Shannon Lee Dawdy, Marcello Oreste Fiocco, Charlotte Vyt, and Christine J. Winter, *Blog of the American Philosophical Association*, 2022-23
 9. [*Nussbaum's Politics of Wonder: How the Mind's Original Joy Is Revolutionary*](#), with images by Misty Morrison, London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2023
 - a. [Review by Silviya Serafimova](#) in *Ethical Studies*, 8:2, 177-83, 2023
 - b. [Walking together and talking about the politics of wonder](#)" (in Hebrew), framing, excerpt, and discussion, *Iyyun: The Jerusalem Journal of Philosophy*, Issue 75, Spring, 2025
 10. [*A Planetary Imagination: Responses to Chakrabarty's Socio-Natural Historiography*](#), editor, with contributions by Neil Brenner, Danielle Celermajer, Dipesh Chakrabarty, Elizabeth Chatterjee, Julia Gibson, Agni Kalfagianni, Urszula Lisowska, Thomas Nail, Stefan Pedersen, Dmitris Stevis, and Christine J. Winter, special issue of *Environmental Philosophy*, 19:2, 2022
 11. [*Z\(a\)dziwienie Ciałem – To Wonder \(to Wander\) in Corporeal Relationships*](#), co-editor with Urszula Lisowska, and contributions by Zachary Arrington, Danielle Celermajer, Shannon Lee Dawdy, Magdalena Hoły-Luczaj, Brian Onishi, and Anders Schinkel, special issues of *Studia Philosophica Wratislaviensia*, 17:2, 2023
 12. [*Democracy as a Way of Life*](#), *Blog of the American Philosophical Association*, editor, with contributions by Eva Meijer, Richard Sherwin, Urszula Lisowska, Hagi Kenaan, and Judy Twedt, 2024-25
 13. [*"What Do We Want the Environment to Be?" Critical Developments of Steven Vogel's Philosophy*](#) lead editor with co-editors Jonathan Maskit and Ronald Sandler and contributions by Joey Aloï, Eric Godoy, Charles Hayes, Urszula Lisowska, Zachary Vereb, and Steven Vogel, *Environmental Ethics* 46:4, 2024
 14. [*Earth, Wonder, Justice, and Abandon: Environmental Philosophy's Attachment to the Home Planet*](#), New York: Routledge, 2027
 15. [*Paths of Wonder: Empowering Animals through the Capability Approach*](#), co-editor with Martha C. Nussbaum, Nicolas Delon, Breena Holland, and Amy Linch, under review
- Selected Papers
1. "Analogical Extension and Analogical Implication in Environmental Moral

- Philosophy,” *Philosophy in the Contemporary World*, v. 8, n. 2, 2001
2. “School – Family Relationships: An Argument for the Parallel Process Model,” *Urban Children & Youth in the MENA Region: Educational Priorities*, Dubai: World Bank / Arab Urban Development Institute / Dubai Municipality, 2005
 3. “Species Extinction and the Vice of Thoughtlessness: The Importance of Spiritual Exercises for Learning Virtue,” *Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Ethics*, n. 23, 2009 (reprinted in P. Cafaro and R. Sandler eds., *Virtue Ethics and the Environment*, New York: Springer, 2011)
 4. “From Humans to All of Life – Nussbaum’s Transformation of Dignity,” in Flavio Comim and Martha Nussbaum, eds., *Capabilities, Gender, Equality: toward Fundamental Entitlements*, New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014
 5. “‘[Goodness Itself Must Change](#)’ – [Anthroponomy in an Age of Socially-Caused, Planetary Environmental Change](#),” *Ethics & Bioethics (in Central Europe)*, v. 6, n. 3-4, 2016
 6. “The Reasonableness of Wonder,” *Journal of Human Development and Capabilities*, v. 18, n. 3: *Symposium on the Capabilities of Different Beings*, 2017
 - a. Martha C. Nussbaum’s response (same issue)
 7. “Facing Mass Extinction, It Is Prudent to Decolonise Lands & Laws: A Philosophical Essay on Respecting Jurisdiction,” *Griffith Law Review*, Issue on Extinction and the Law, 29:4(2021), pp. 561-584.
 8. “[Acceptance Governance](#)” (Part III of *The Problem of an Unloving World*), *Earth System Governance*, v. 16, 2023, pp. 1-12.
 9. “The Self-Work of Planetary Justice,” *Environmental Politics*, special issue on planetary justice, 2023
 10. “[Post-punk Wonder: Ease in Unease](#),” in J. Heter and R. Greene, eds. *Post-Punk and Philosophy* (Chicago: Carus Books, 2024), chapter 17
 11. “[Stirred by Your Presence](#),” in *Studia Philosophica Wratislaviensia*, 17:2, pp. 29-41, 2024
 12. “Introducing Geological Wonder: Planetary Thinking as a Disruption of Narcissism” with Stefan Pedersen, *Environmental Values*, 2024
 13. “Revisiting Humanism,” in Nathanaël Wallenhorst and Christoph Wulf et al., eds., *Encyclopedia of the Anthropocene: Pluriversal Perspectives* (Berlin: Springer Nature, 2024-), in press

**Full vita and references
available on request**