

THOMAS M. WILK

Humanities Division
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Academic Positions

Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Widener University	2023-Present
Assistant Teaching Professor of Philosophy, Widener University	2020-2023

Professional Activities

Ethics Committee, Crozer Health Systems	2020-Present
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Education

Johns Hopkins University, Ph.D., Philosophy	2019
- Preparing Future Faculty Teaching Academy Certificate of Completion	
- Johns Hopkins Teaching Institute Certificate of Completion	
Johns Hopkins University, M.A., Philosophy	2012
George Mason University, M.A. with departmental honors, Philosophy	2009
Gettysburg College, B.A. <i>cum laude</i> with departmental honors, Double Major in Philosophy and Economics	2005

Areas of Specialization

Biomedical Ethics, Ethics (Theoretical and Applied), Philosophy of Language, Philosophy of Humor, Epistemology

Areas of Competence

Philosophy of Sport, Social and Political Philosophy, Logic (Formal, Informal, and Decision Theory), History of Early Modern Philosophy

Academic Publications

Books

In on the Joke: A (Mildly) Contractarian Ethics of Joking, with Steven Gimbel, De Gruyter (Forthcoming).

Peer-Reviewed Articles

“Conspiracy Theories, Echo Chambers, and Communal Epistemic Trust,” *Azimuth: International Journal of Philosophy*,” (Forthcoming).

“A Kernel of Truth: Outlining an Epistemology of Jokes,” *The Philosophy of Humor Yearbook*, 2023, 4(1): 227-246.

“Proportion and the Personality of Humor,” *The Philosophy of Humor Yearbook*, 2021, 2(1): 147-148.

“I Said Something Wrong: Transworld Obligation in *Yesterday*” with Steven Gimbel, *Film-Philosophy*, 2021, 25(2): 151-164.

“Trust, Communities, and the Standing to Hold Accountable,” *Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal*, 2017, 27(2 Supplement): 1-22.

“Inferences, Experiences, and the Myth of the Given: A Reply to Champagne,” *Logos and Episteme: An International Journal of Epistemology*, 2017, 8 (1): 155-162.

Invited Book Chapters

“Sharing the Truth in a Joke,” *It's Funny 'Cause It's True: An Introduction to Philosophy through Humor*. Jennifer Marra Henrigillis and Steven Gimbel (eds.) Lighthearted Open Access: 2021.

Popular Publications

“The Right Way to Win Over Posterity,” *Hamilton and Philosophy*. Aaron Rabinowitz and Robert Arp (eds.) Open Court: 2017.

Presentations (* refereed)

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| 2022 | “In on the Joke: Sketching an Ethics of Humor,” Humanities Division Colloquium, Widener University |
| 2022 | * “A Contextual Social Contractarian Approach to Humor Ethics” with Steven Gimbel, International Association of Philosophy of Humor Session, APA Pacific Division Meeting |
| 2021 | * “Joking Around with Truth,” International Association of Philosophy of Humor Session, APA Pacific Division Meeting |
| 2018 | Comment on Daniel Mendez’s “Talking Ourselves Senseless,” APA Eastern Division Meeting |
| 2016 | “Making Morality,” Gettysburg College Philosophy Department |
| 2015 | * “Are Lived Normative Statuses Really Normative?,” Philosopher’s Cocoon Conference |
| 2015 | Comment on Ross Colebrook’s “Ethical Reductionism and the Darwinian Dilemma,” Nature and Norms: Values in a Material World Conference |
| 2013 | “Moral Fictionalism: Some Concerns,” Philosophy Department Summer Research Seminar, Johns Hopkins University |
| 2012 | * “Rehabilitating the Community View: Majority Agreement, Standard Conditions, and the Normativity of Meaning,” Virginia Philosophical Association |
| 2012 | * “Rehabilitating the Community View: Majority Agreement, Standard Conditions, and the Normativity of Meaning,” In Wittgenstein’s Footsteps, Reykjavik, Iceland (Accepted, could not attend.) |
| 2011 | “Wittgenstein’s Rule-Following Considerations,” Leadership, Ethics, and Law Division Workshop, United States Naval Academy |

- 2011 * “Epistemic Commitment and the Recognitive Aspect of Education,” Virginia Philosophical Association
- 2010 “Joking and Meaning It: A Linguistic Trick of Non-Commitment,” Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Lecture Series, George Mason University
- 2009 * “Jokes as Speech Acts: Exploring the Richly Linguistic Character of Some Jokes,” Lighthearted Philosophers Society
- 2009 Comment on Richard C. Richards’s “Laughter, Humor, and Incongruity,” Lighthearted Philosophers Society

Teaching Experience

Widener University (Fall 2020 – Present)

- Ethics (11 times, 2 Honors)
- Business Ethics (8 times)
- Values Seminar: Biomedical Ethics
- Introduction to Philosophical Ideas
- Philosophy of Education (for Nursing PhD Program)

George Mason University (Fall 2017 – Present)

- Bioethics (10 times, 1 online)
- Philosophy of Law (3 times)
- Decision and Game Theory (3 times)

George Washington University (Spring 2014 – Fall 2019)

- Introduction to Philosophy (4 times)
- Philosophy of Law
- Ethics: Theory and Applications
- Contemporary Moral Issues

Johns Hopkins University (Spring 2013 – Fall 2018)

- Philosophy of Human Rights (4 times, 2 as a Freshman Seminar)
- Philosophy of Sport
- Introduction to Ethics (TA for Dr. Nandi Theunissen)
- Bioethics (3 times, TA for Dr. Hilary Bok)
- Decisions, Games, and Social Choice (TA for Dr. Justin Bledin)
- History of Modern Philosophy (TA for Dr. Michael Williams)
- History of Modern Psychology (2 times, TA for Dr. Paul Hofer)

Gettysburg College (Spring 2016, Spring 2020)

- Introduction to Philosophy
- Critical Thinking
- Contemporary Moral Issues (3 times)

Goucher College (Fall 2012 – Fall 2013)

Introduction to Logic (3 times)
United States Naval Academy (Fall 2011)
Philosophy of Science

Teaching Awards

2019 Outstanding Mason Core Course: Bioethics
2018 Outstanding Mason Core Course: Bioethics
2018 Dean's Prize Teaching Fellowship, Johns Hopkins
2017 Dean's Prize Teaching Fellowship, Johns Hopkins
2016 (Declined) Dean's Prize Teaching Fellowship, Johns Hopkins
2015 Dean's Teaching Fellowship, Johns Hopkins

Academic Honors, Awards, and Fellowships

2018 Miller Essay Prize, Dept. of Philosophy, Johns Hopkins
2016-17 David Sachs Dissertation Fellowship, Dept. of Philosophy, Johns Hopkins
2013-14 Hodson Fellowship in the Humanities, Dept. of Philosophy, Johns Hopkins
2013 High Pass, Qualifying Exam in Philosophy of Language, Johns Hopkins
2013 Miller Essay Prize, Dept. of Philosophy, Johns Hopkins
2010-11 Leon Lauer Fellowship, Dept. of Philosophy, Johns Hopkins
2009 Outstanding Graduate Student Award, Dept. of Philosophy, George Mason
2007-09 Research Assistantship, Dept. of Philosophy, George Mason
2005 Chan L. Coulter Award, Dept. of Philosophy, Gettysburg College

Professional Development

2020- Widener Humanities Division Anti-Racist Pedagogy Faculty Learning Community
Present
2017 Teaching Institute, Center for Educational Resources, Johns Hopkins University
2016 Workshop on Diversity and Inclusion, Johnson Center for Creative Teaching and Learning, Gettysburg College
2015 Teaching and Learning Workshop, American Association of Philosophy Teachers, Carnegie Mellon University
2012 Practicum in Administration and Higher Education, Johns Hopkins University
2010 Philosophy Outreach Conference, Columbia University

University Service

2023-24 Humanities Living Learning Community, Faculty Advisor
2023-25 Widener University Faculty Council, College of Arts & Sciences Representative

- 2022-23 Widener College of Arts & Sciences, Promotion, Tenure, and Academic Freedom Committee, Humanities Division Assistant Professor Representative
- 2022-23 Widener College of Arts & Sciences, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, Chair
- 2021-25 Widener College of Arts & Sciences, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, Secretary

Service to the Profession

- 2022 Panelist, Johns Hopkins University, Teaching Academy: Life after Grad School
- 2017 APA Eastern Division Meeting, Chair for colloquium on Values in Practice
- 2016 APA Eastern Division Meeting, Chair for colloquium on Moral Progress in the History of the Moral Norms
- 2012-14 Johns Hopkins University Philosophy Department Colloquia Committee
- 2012-14 Reviewer, *Prometheus: Johns Hopkins Undergraduate Philosophy Journal*
- 2012-13 Johns Hopkins University Center for History and Philosophy of Science Colloquia Organizer
- 2012-13 Reviewer, *Verge 9&10: Goucher College Undergraduate Journal*
- 2011-12 President, Hammond Society (Johns Hopkins University philosophy graduate student organization)
- 2010-11 Faculty Liaison, Hammond Society
- 2009 Graduate Student Liaison, Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy Conference hosted by George Mason University

Professional Society Memberships

American Philosophical Association
 American Association of Philosophy Teachers
 Richard Rorty Society
 Wilfrid Sellars Society
 Lighthearted Philosophers Society
 International Association of Philosophy of Humo

