

Alec Stubbs

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Department of Philosophy, University of Massachusetts, Boston, MA, 02125, USA

Areas of Research

- AOS Social and Political Philosophy, Existentialism, Philosophy of Technology
AOC Ethics, Ancient Philosophy

Employment

- 2024-pres. Assistant Teaching Professor of Philosophy
Politics, Philosophy, and Economics (PPE) Program Coordinator
Department of Philosophy and Religion, Northeastern University Oakland
- 2022-2024. Post-Doctoral Fellow
Department of Philosophy, University of Massachusetts Boston & The Institute for Ethics
and Emerging Technologies
- 2021-2022 Teaching Scholar Fellow
Department of Philosophy, Loyola University Chicago

Education

- 2022 Ph.D., Philosophy, Loyola University Chicago (with distinction)
Dissertation: *The Political Economy of Capitalism in the Digital Age, Economic Democracy, and the Case for the Digital Commons*
Committee: David Ingram (co-director), David Schweickart (co-director), Joy Gordon
- 2018 M.A., Philosophy, Loyola University Chicago
- 2016 B.A., Philosophy and B.A., Political Science, *Summa Cum Laude*

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Articles and Book Chapters

- 2024 “Post-Work as Post-Capitalist: Economic Democracy for a Post-Work Future.” In *Debating a Post-Work Future: Perspectives from Philosophy and the Social Sciences*, eds., Denise Celentano, Michael Cholbi, Jean-Philippe Deranty, and Kory Schaff. New York: Routledge. (forthcoming).
- 2022 “Digital Participatory Democracy: A Normative Framework for the Democratic Governance of the Digital Commons.” *Journal of Social Philosophy* 54, no.3 (2022): 385-403.
- 2020 “Owning the Future of Work.” In *The Routledge Handbook of Transformative Global Studies*, ed., S. A. Hamed Hosseini, James Goodman, Sara C. Motta, Barry K. Gills, pp. 387-399. New York: Routledge, 2020.
- 2020 “Technocapitalism, the Intangible Economy, and Economic Centralization.” *Perspectives on Global Development and Technology* 19, no. 1-2 (2020): 32-44.
- 2017 “Automation, Artificial Intelligence, and the God/Useless Divide.” *Perspectives on Global Development and Technology* 16, no. 6 (2017): 700-716.

Public Philosophy Writing

- 2024 “The achievement society is burning us out, we need more play.” *Psyche*. April 1.
- 2023 “ChatGPT, DALL-E 2 and the collapse of the creative process.” (with Nir Eisikovits). *The Conversation*. January 12.

- 2022 “American workers feel alienated, helpless and overwhelmed – here’s one way to alleviate their malaise.” *The Conversation*. November 10.
Selected for republication in The Conversation on Work (book forthcoming in 2024) as part of the Critical Conversations Series, published by Johns Hopkins University Press.

Pedagogical Writing

- 2022 “Did You Get the Memo? Marx, Alienation, and Office Space.” *Blog of the APA*. Teaching and Learning Video Series.

Policy Papers

- 2023 “Emerging Technologies and Higher Education,” with Jake Burley, James Hughes, and Nir Eisikovits. *IEET White Papers*.
- 2023 “The Democratic Metaverse: Building an Extended Reality Safe for Citizens, Workers and Consumers,” with James Hughes and Nir Eisikovits. *IEET White Papers*.

Book Reviews

- 2021 “Examining the Sacrificial Economy of Digital Capitalism.” *Radical Philosophy Review* 24, no. 2 (2021): 277-281.

In Progress

- “The Existential Value of Play”
“Pedagogies of Meaning”

Invited Presentations

- 2024 “Ethics and Creativity.” (with Ilya Vidrin). *Creativity and AI*. Foothill College, May 2.
- 2023 “Digital Labor and the Achievement Subject in the Attention Economy.” *AI and the Future of Protest Politics: Politics and Emotions in the Age of Digital Transformation and Surveillance Capitalism*, University of Bergen, November 30-December 1.
- 2023 Keynote Address: “A Pedagogy of Meaning: What does it mean to be a human student in a world of AI?” *University Conference on Teaching, Learning and Technology (UCTLT)*, University of Massachusetts Boston, May 11.
- 2022 “Economic Democracy and the Future of Work.” *Future of Work Lecture Series*, The Institute for Ethics and Emerging Technologies and the Applied Ethics Center at University of Massachusetts Boston, September 20.
- 2022 “A Normative Framework for the Democratic Governance of the Digital Commons.” *Loyola Rule of Law Institute Lecture Series*, Loyola University Chicago School of Law, February 21.

Refereed Presentations

- 2023 “Play as Existential Sovereignty.” *Fifth International Conference on Philosophy and Meaning in Life*, Graduate School of Arts and Letters, Tohoku University (online), Japan, June 28-30.
- 2022 “The Future of Work(ers): Automation and Workplace Democracy.” *The 39th International Social Philosophy Conference*, North American Society for Social Philosophy, (online), July 29.
- 2021 “Towards a Unified Political Economy of Capitalism in the Digital Age.” *Technology and Socialization: Many Regimes of Capital in the Postdigital Age*, Faculty of Artes Liberales, University of Warsaw (Poland) in collaboration with the Center for Philosophical Technologies at Arizona State University (online), October 21-22.

- 2021 “Prefigurative Politics for a Viable Socialism.” *38th Annual International Social Philosophy Conference*, North American Society for Social Philosophy, (virtual conference), July 15-17.
- 2021 “Imagining the Digital Commons: An Expansion of Economic Democracy.” *25th Annual Brave New World Conference*, Manchester Center for Political Theory, Manchester, UK (virtual conference), July 7-8.
- 2021 “Academic Worker Organizing Strategies: Mutual Aid and Networks of Counterpower.” *American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meeting*, Activism and Philosophy Panel, (virtual conference), February 24-27.
- 2018 “Surveillance Capitalism, Autonomy, and Democratic Technology.” *Radical Philosophy Association Bi-Annual Conference*, University of Massachusetts Lowell, Lowell, MA, November 8-10.
- 2017 “Blockchain Democracy: Dissent through Decentralization.” *Loyola University Chicago Philosophy Graduate Conference*, Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, IL, October 6-7.
- 2017 “Automation, Artificial Intelligence, and the God/Useless Divide.” *Global Social Movements: Left and Right*, Global Studies Association, The University of California, Berkeley, Clark Kerr Campus, Berkeley, CA, June 14-16.

Teaching Experience [†]

Instructor

Northeastern University Oakland

PHIL 1160 Introduction to Economic Justice (Fall '24)

PHIL 1145 Technology and Human Values (Fall '24)

Villanova University

HON 5003 Shaping a Work Life (Spring '24), two sections ‡

University of Massachusetts, Boston §

HON 210G Philosophy as a Way of Life (Spring '24)

HON 292 Work, Leisure, and Play (Fall '23)

PHIL 207G The Meaning of Life (Summer '23)

PHIL 108 Moral and Social Problems (Fall '22)

Loyola University Chicago

PHIL 182 Social and Political Philosophy (x4) (Fall '20, Spring '20, Fall '19, Fall '18)

PHIL 350 Directed Reading: Prefigurative Politics and Political Resistance (Fall '21)

Teaching Scholar Fellow

Loyola University Chicago

2021-22 Teaching Effectiveness Seminar (Fall '21 – Spring '22)

Served as instructor, co-facilitator, and organizer for a year long, university-wide teaching effectiveness seminar for graduate student instructors focusing on inclusive pedagogy, learner-centered teaching, backward course design, and universal design for learning (UDL).

[†] For all courses taught as “Instructor” I have been the sole course designer and creator of all course materials.

[‡] Includes full course redesign as part of the Villanova Honors College Shaping a Life initiative.

[§] All honors courses are new, uniquely designed courses for the Honors College at UMass Boston.

2021-22 Graduate Instructor Mentor (Fall '21 – Spring '22)

Mentor for four graduate student instructors during and prior to their first semester of undergraduate teaching. Included teaching observations, one-on-one support, and small-group pedagogical discussions.

Student Advising

Loyola University Chicago

2021 Undergraduate Honors Thesis Supervision for Megan Walsh, “The Shadow Feminist and Madwoman in the Negative Aesthetic: The Spirit of Queer Pessimism for Radical Hope in the Rupture of Violent Resistance in the Feminist Imaginary” (with Jesús Luzardo)

Teaching Assistant

Loyola University Chicago

PHIL 181 Ethics (Spring '19)

PHIL 284 Healthcare Ethics (Spring '18)

PHIL 182 Social and Political Philosophy (Fall '17, Spring '17)

PHIL 130 Philosophy and Persons (Fall '16)

Pedagogical Certification

2022 Certification in Anti-Racist Pedagogy, Loyola University Chicago

2021 Certification in Experiential Learning, Loyola University Chicago

2021 Certification in Ignatian Pedagogy, Loyola University Chicago

Pedagogical Coursework

2019-20 Teaching Effectiveness Seminar, Graduate School, Loyola University Chicago

2018 Teaching Effectiveness Seminar, Philosophy Department, Loyola University Chicago

Invited Teaching, Lectures, and Workshops

2024 Invited Panelist, “How is GAI being incorporated into pedagogy (with an eye toward the workforce of the future)?”. *Impact of Artificial Intelligence Symposium*. University of Massachusetts, April 11.

2024 Invited Instructor, “The Impacts of AI and Emerging Technologies on Research,” EDLDRS 892, Advanced Dissertation Seminar, February 16

2024 Invited Speaker, “Creative Pedagogy and AI Tools,” *TEACH Team*, University of Massachusetts Boston, February 14

2023 Invited Speaker, “ChatGPT and Pedagogies of Meaning,” *Center for Innovative Teaching Faculty Workshop Series*, University of Massachusetts Boston, November 16

2023 Invited Instructor, “Economic Democracy: What it is and why we need it,” PHIL 2303, Social and Political Philosophy, taught by Adam Hosein, Northeastern University, October 4

2023 Invited Panelist, “ChatGPT and Its Impact on Teaching.” *TEACH '23 Lecture Series*, The University of Massachusetts Boston, February 13

Additional Professional Development in Pedagogy

2022 Participant, “Setting Intentions,” *Contemplative Pedagogy Group*, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, September 23

- 2022 Participant, "Philosophy as a Way of Life Workshop," University of Notre Dame, August 6-9
- 2021 Participant, "Specs Grading for Community-Based Learning," *Center for Engaged Learning, Teaching, and Scholarship*, Loyola University Chicago
- 2021 Participant, "Seminar on Teaching and Learning in Philosophy," *American Association of Philosophy Teachers*, (Online), August 9-16
- 2018 Participant, "To Improve the Quality of Instruction in Philosophy at All Levels," *American Association of Philosophy Teachers*, Loyola University Chicago, April 7

Additional Pedagogical Service

- 2023-pres. Existentialism Reading Group, Lead Organizer, University of Massachusetts Boston
- 2023 Judge, *2023 National Bioethics Bowl*, Northeastern University, April 15
- 2022 Creator/Presenter, "Course Design Using Ignatian Pedagogy," instructional video produced for the Faculty Center for Ignatian Pedagogy, Loyola University Chicago
- 2022 Evaluator, Undergraduate Research & Engagement Symposium, Loyola University Chicago. April 19-24
- 2018 Graduate Mentor, Loyola Undergraduate Philosophy Conference

Honors and Awards

- 2021-22 Teaching Scholar Fellowship, Loyola University Chicago
Competitive fellowship awarded to six graduate students across the College of Arts and Sciences, School of Social Work, and School of Education for excellence in teaching performance; designed to help continue the awarded fellow's growth as a teacher-scholar.
- 2021-22 Rule of Law Institute at Loyola University Chicago (LROLI) Fellow (\$3000)
Competitive grant awarded to both faculty and graduate student applicants to pursue research at the intersection of the rule of law and social inequities.
- 2021 Community-Engaged Experiential Learning Scholar, Loyola University Chicago
- 2021 Graduate School Travel Grant, Loyola University Chicago
- 2020 Summer Research Grant, Loyola University Chicago (\$1000)
- 2019 Summer Research Grant, Loyola University Chicago (\$1000)
- 2017 Summer Research Grant, Loyola University Chicago (\$1000)
- 2016 Academic Award for Excellence in Political Science, Butler University
Top student in the discipline.
- 2016 *Phi Beta Kappa* Honor Society
- 2015, '16 Academic Award for Excellence in Philosophy, Butler University
Top student in the discipline.

Professional Service

University & Department Service

- 2024 Invited Panelist and Moderator, "How is AI influencing consumer and civil rights?" with Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell and Nir Eisikovits. University of Massachusetts Boston, April 16.

- 2023 Invited Commenter, “Symposium on Christopher Zurn’s *Splitsville USA: A Democratic Argument for Breaking Up the United States*,” University of Massachusetts Boston, October 26.
- 2023 Invited Panelist, “Faculty Panel: A Sustainable Future for Our Global Planet: The Role of Artificial Intelligence,” University of Massachusetts Boston, September 23
- 2019-22 Board Member & Graduate Student Representative, American Association of University Professors (AAUP), Loyola University Chicago
- 2018-21 Co-Chair, Loyola Graduate Workers’ Union
- 2016-22 Founding Member/Organizing Committee Member, Loyola Graduate Workers’ Union
- 2017-22 Founding Member, Loyola Worker Coalition
- 2020-21 Co-President, Association of Graduate Students in Philosophy, Loyola University Chicago
- 2018-21 Treasurer, Association of Graduate Students in Philosophy, Loyola University Chicago
- 2020 Invited Panelist, Black Graduate Student Alliance/Enhancing Diversity in Graduate Education Open Forum

Additional Public Philosophy

- 2023 Host of a 5-episode podcast mini-series on the future of work for the *Ethics in Action Podcast*.

Media Interviews

- 2024 D’Agostino, “In Class, Some Colleges Overlook Technology’s Dark Side,” *Inside Higher Ed*, November 16, 2023. <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/tech-innovation/teaching-learning/2023/11/16/some-colleges-overlook-technologys-dark-side>.
- 2023 Thomson, “Your Girlfriend Might Not Be Real,” *Newsweek*, May 20, 2023. <https://www.newsweek.com/artificial-intelligence-ai-girlfriend-chatbot-influencer-1801379>.

Conference and Workshop Organizing

- 2023 Co-Organizer, *2023 Emerging Technologies and Future of Work Conference*, University of Massachusetts Boston, November 3-4.
- 2022-pres. Co-Organizer, *Future of Work Lecture Series*, Institute for Ethics and Emerging Technologies and the Applied Ethics Center at the University of Massachusetts Boston
Includes 20+ talks organized in person and via Zoom for both academic and public participation.
- 2022 Co-Organizer, *Graduate Conference in Political Theory*, Loyola University Chicago in conjunction with the New School for Social Research, April 15-16
- 2022 Co-Organizer, “Teaching Effectiveness Seminar – Job Market Workshop,” Loyola University Chicago, April 7

Professional Organization Service

- 2022 Session Chair, “Social and Political I,” American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meeting, Chicago

Editorial Service

- 2022 – pres. Associate Editor, *Journal of Ethics and Emerging Technologies*

Additional Research Experience

- 2020 Research Assistant to Dr. Joy Gordon concerning economic sanctions
- 2020 Research Assistant to Dr. Joy Gordon concerning developing open access African tax justice database in conjunction with The Jesuit Justice and Ecology Network Africa
- 2019 Research Assistant to Dr. Joy Gordon concerning development economics and the global knowledge economy
- 2018 Research Assistant to Dr. David Ingram and Dr. Tom Derdak concerning development ethics and copy editor for their book *The Ethics of Development: An Introduction*
- 2018 Copy editor for Dr. Abraham Singer's *The Form of the Firm: A Normative Political Theory of the Corporation*
- 2015 Research Assistant to Dr. Siobhan McEvoy-Levy for her book *Peace and Resistance in Youth Cultures: Reading the Politics of Peacebuilding from Harry Potter and The Hunger Games*

Graduate Coursework

Social and Political Philosophy

- Spring '19 Reading Marx's *Capital*, directed reading, David Schweickart
- Spring '19 Feminist Ethics, Jennifer Parks
- Fall '18 Ethical Issues in International Relations, Joy Gordon
- Fall '17 Philosophical Research Tools: Research & Analysis in Social and Political Philosophy, Joy Gordon
- Spring '17 Philosophy of Law: Liberty, Law, Autonomy, Harm, Heidi Malm
- Spring '17 Marx: Basic Texts and Contemporary Relevance, David Schweickart
- Fall '16 Hermeneutics and Critical Theory: Habermas and Honneth, David Ingram
- Fall '16 Ethics and Society: Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy, David Schweickart

Additional Graduate Coursework

- Spring '18 17th-18th Century Philosophy: Reason & Faith in Modern Philosophy, Kristen Irwin
- Spring '18 Medieval Philosophy, Blake Dutton
- Spring '18 Existentialism, David Schweickart
- Fall '18 Philosophy of Mind, Joe Vukov
- Fall '17 Aristotle: Ancient Theories of Friendship, Julie Ward
- Fall '17 Phenomenology of Mind, Hanne Jacobs
- Spring '17 German Idealism, Andrew Cutrofello
- Fall '16 Nietzsche, Jacqueline Scott

Languages

- Spanish (intermediate reading)

Membership in Academic Organizations

American Association for Philosophy Teachers

American Association of University Professors

American Philosophical Association

North American Society for Social Philosophy

Radical Philosophy Association

References

Nir Eisikovits, Professor of Philosophy and Director of the Applied Ethics Center
University of Massachusetts, Boston
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David Schweickart, Emeritus Faculty, Professor of Philosophy (research and teaching reference)
Loyola University Chicago
Crown Center, 3rd Floor 1032 W. Sheridan Road. Chicago, IL 60660
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Joseph Vukov, Director of Graduate Studies, Associate Professor (teaching reference)
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