

Jason Lee Byas

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- **Tulane University & The Murphy Institute** – Assistant Professor of Philosophy & Political Economy – Fall, 2026 – Current.
- **Georgetown University (Georgetown Institute for the Study of Markets & Ethics, McDonough School of Business)** – Junior Faculty Fellow. Fall, 2025 – Summer, 2026.

EDUCATION

- **University of Michigan (Ann Arbor)** – PhD, Philosophy. Graduation: Summer, 2025.
Dissertation: [*Decriminalizing Crime: Accountability Without the Retributive Ritual*](#)
Committee: Elizabeth Anderson (chair), Renée Jørgensen, Gabriel Mendlow, David Sussman (Indiana).
- **University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign)** – PhD, Philosophy. Attended from 2017 – 2019, transferred to Michigan.
- **Georgia State University** – M.A., Philosophy. Graduation: Summer, 2017.
Thesis: *Rights, Alienation & Forfeiture*
Committee: Andrew I. Cohen (co-chair), Andrew J. Cohen (co-chair), Andrew Altman, Christie Hartley
- **University of Oklahoma** B.A., Philosophy & Sociology. Graduation: Spring, 2014.

RESEARCH AREAS

Areas of Specialization: Ethics; Political Philosophy; Philosophy of Law

Areas of Competence: Political Economy; Social Philosophy; Metaethics

AWARDS & GRANTS

1. **ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award**, *University of Michigan*. 2026. [Awarded in recognition of excellence for a handful of dissertations across the entire university each year. First Philosophy dissertation to win since 2015.]
 2. **Charles L. Stevenson Prize**, *University of Michigan*. 2023 – 2024. [Awarded to the best dissertation prospectus each year.]
 3. **Adam Smith Fellowship** (awarded 6x, 2017 – 2024), *Mercatus Center*. [Highly interdisciplinary program for reading, discussing, and writing work in political economy.]
 4. **Junior Fellows Program** (awarded 2x, Summer 2023 & 2024), *Institute for Humane Studies*. [Invited interdisciplinary program for developing academic work over a summer.]
 5. **Humane Studies Fellowship** (awarded 5x, 2017 – 2021), *Institute for Humane Studies*. [General support for PhD students in humanities and social sciences.]
 6. **Graduate College Distinguished Fellowship**, *University of Illinois*. Fall 2017 – Summer 2019. [Additional support offered to one prospective PhD student per cycle.]
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REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

1. “Two-Tiered Mixed Theories of Punishment Are Not Safe from the Angry Mob.”
Australasian Journal of Philosophy (2025).
2. “Entrepreneurship as Political Action.”
Public Affairs Quarterly (2025).

3. **“By Any Means Necessary’: Violence, Nonviolence & Signaling Seriousness.”**
Journal of Pacifism & Nonviolence (2025).

INVITED PUBLICATIONS

1. **“Order vs. Obedience: A Political Paradox for Rule-Following”**
The Legacy of James M. Buchanan, eds. Rosolino Candela, Mikayla Novak & Alain Marciano, Lexington Books (Forthcoming)
2. **“Politics Without Romance, Without Romance: A Meta-Problem for Virginia Political Economy”**
Political Process: New Perspectives on the Virginia and Bloomington Schools, eds. Christopher J. Coyne, Donald J. Boudreaux & Brian Kogelmann, Lexington Books (2025).
3. **“Aggression Abroad: Noninterventionism Without National Sovereignty”**
Global Federalism: Liberty and Security in an Anarchical World, ed. Brandon Christiansen, Palgrave MacMillan (2024).
4. **“Seeing the State Through *For a New Liberty*.”**
Independent Review, Vol. 28, No. 4: 553-565 (2024).
5. **“Rectification & Historic Injustice”**
Routledge Companion of Libertarianism, eds. Matt Zwolinski & Benjamin Ferguson, Routledge: 427-440. (2022).
6. **“Methodological Anarchism” (with Billy Christmas)**
Routledge Handbook of Anarchy and Anarchist Thought, eds. Gary Chartier & Chad van Schoelandt, Routledge: 53-75. (2020).
7. **“Supplying the Demand of Liberation: Markets as a Structural Check Against Domination”**
Molinari Review, Vol. 1, No. 2: 9-23 (2019).
8. **“The Political Is Interpersonal”**
The Dialectics of Liberty: Exploring the Context of Human Freedom, eds. Roger E. Bissell, Chris Matthew Sciabarra & Edward W. Younkins, Lexington Books: 307-324. (2019).

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

* = Refereed; † = Department Colloquium or Similar

1. **“Libertarianism on Stolen Land: The Problem of Pervasive Historical Injustice” †**
Southern Methodist University, Department of Philosophy, Dallas, TX. May 1, 2026.
2. **“Potemkin Values”**
Symposium on Assessing and Addressing the Politicization of Business, Georgetown Institute for the Study of Markets & Ethics, Washington, DC. April 25, 2026.
3. **“Retributive Failure” †**
University of Utah, Department of Philosophy, Salt Lake City, UT. April 3, 2026.
4. **“Distributed Justice”**
APA (Eastern Division), Baltimore, MD. January 7, 2026.
5. **“Retributive Failure” †**
Tulane University, Department of Philosophy, New Orleans, LA. December 1, 2025.
6. **“The Vocabulary of Society” * (as part of a jointly-refereed session)**
PPE Society, New Orleans, LA. November 15, 2025.
7. **“Distributed Justice” * (as part of a jointly-refereed session)**
PPE Society, New Orleans, LA. November 13, 2025.
8. **“Wading in Leviathan’s Waters” * (as part of a jointly-refereed session)**
Markets & Society, Falls Church, VA. October 18, 2025.
9. **“How to Abolish the Criminal Law”**

- APA (Pacific Division)*, San Francisco, CA. April 17, 2025.
10. **"The Problem of Pervasive Historic Injustice."** *
Michigan-MIT Social Philosophy Workshop, Ann Arbor, MI. March 14, 2025.
 11. **"The Vocabulary of Society: Feasibility & Fit in Expressive Arguments."** *
APA (Eastern Division), New York, NY. January 10, 2025.
 12. **Commentary on John Hasnas's *Common Law Liberalism*.** * (as part of a jointly-refereed session)
PPE Society, New Orleans, LA. November 16, 2024.
 13. **"Systems of Social Worth."**
Purdue PPE Workshop Series, West Lafayette, Indiana. September 20, 2024. [Pre-read.]
 14. **"The Problem of Pervasive Historic Injustice."** *
Anarchy, State & Utopia at 50, Kandersteg, Switzerland. September 3, 2024.
 15. **"Retributive Failure."**
2024 IHS Junior Fellows Program, Second Session, Raleigh, NC. August 16, 2024.
 16. **"Retributive Failure."**
2024 IHS Junior Fellows Program, First Session, Raleigh, NC. May 17, 2024.
 17. **"Beyond Reform & Revolution, or, How to Abolish the Criminal Law."** *
Michigan-MIT Social Philosophy Workshop, Cambridge, MA. April 6, 2024.
 18. **"The Problem of Pervasive Historic Injustice."**
APA (Eastern Division), New York, NY. January 16, 2024.
 19. **Commentary on Jesse Spafford's *Social Anarchism & the Rejection of Moral Tyranny*.** * (as part of a jointly-refereed session)
PPE Society, New Orleans, LA. November 2, 2023.
 20. **"The Vocabulary of Society."**
2023 IHS Junior Fellows Program, Second Session, Raleigh, NC. August 11, 2023.
 21. **"The Vocabulary of Society."**
2023 IHS Junior Fellows Program, First Session, Raleigh, NC. May 19, 2023.
 22. **"Retribution: An Abolitionist Translation."**
APA (Pacific Division), San Francisco, CA. April 5, 2023.
 23. **"An Argument Against Deserved Suffering and Flourishing."***
APA (Pacific Division), San Francisco, CA. April 5, 2023.
 24. **"Aiming at a New Theory of Well-Being."***
APA (Central Division), Denver, CO. February 23, 2023.
 25. **"Mixed Theories of Punishment Are Not Safe from the Angry Mob"***
APA (Eastern Division), Montreal, QC, Canada. January 5, 2023.
 26. **"Retributive Failure."*** (as part of a jointly-refereed session)
PPE Society, New Orleans, LA. November 3, 2022.
 27. **"Property, Interpretation & Contestation."***
Michigan-MIT Social Philosophy Workshop, Cambridge, MA. April 23, 2022.
 28. **"Stolen Bikes & Broken Bones: Restitution as Defense,"** * (as part of a jointly-refereed session)
PPE Society, New Orleans, LA. February 4th, 2022.
 29. **Commentary on Matthew C. Altman's *Justifying Punishment: Deterrence, Retribution & the Aims of the State*.** * (as part of a jointly-refereed session)
Northwest Philosophy Conference, Portland, OR. November 12, 2021.
 30. **"Stolen Bikes & Broken Bones: Restitution as Defense"**
APA (Pacific Division), Virtual. April 5, 2021.
 31. **"Stolen Bikes & Broken Bones: Restitution as Defense,"**
Research Colloquium, *Institute for Humane Studies*, Virtual. March 26, 2021.
 32. **"Alienation, Forfeiture & Two Concepts of Natural Rights,"**
APA (Eastern Division), Virtual. January 14, 2021.

33. **“Aiming at a New Theory of Well-Being”*** (Accepted, conference canceled due to COVID-19).
UIUC Graduate Philosophy Conference, Urbana, IL. April 2020.
34. **“Alienation, Forfeiture & Two Concepts of Natural Rights”** (Conference canceled due to COVID-19.)
APA (Pacific Division), San Francisco, CA. April, 2020.
35. **“Stolen Bikes & Broken Bones: Restitution as Defense”** *(as part of a jointly-refereed session) (Did not attend due to COVID-19.)
PPE Society, New Orleans, LA. March, 2020.
36. **“Retribution: An Abolitionist Translation” ***
Michigan-MIT Social Philosophy Workshop, Cambridge, MA. March 7, 2020.
37. **“What Is Violence?” †**
APA (Eastern Division), Philadelphia, PA. January 9, 2020.
38. **“The Meaning of Mass Incarceration” ***
North American Society for Social Philosophy, San Francisco, CA. July, 2019.
39. **“Vindicating Hampton’s Expressive Retributivism as a Theory of Rebuke.” ***
American Philosophical Association (Pacific Division), Vancouver, BC. April 19, 2019.
40. **“Retribution: An Abolitionist Translation”** *(as part of a jointly-refereed session)
PPE Society, New Orleans, LA. March 29, 2019.
41. **“The Meaning of Mass Incarceration” ***
Georgia Philosophical Society, Macon, GA. February 23, 2019.
42. **“The Meaning of Mass Incarceration” ***
GSU Graduate Philosophy Symposium, Atlanta, GA. February 22, 2019.
43. **“The Political Is Interpersonal” †**
APA (Eastern Division), New York, NY. January 7, 2019.
44. **“Vindicating Hampton’s Expressive Retributivism as a Theory of Rebuke.” ***
Indiana Philosophical Association, Bloomington, IN. November 16, 2018.
45. **“Judging Retribution”**
Fall Research Colloquium, *Institute for Humane Studies*, Arlington, VA. October 13, 2018.
46. **“Mutations of the Utility Monster” ***
Wisconsin Philosophical Association, Oshkosh, WI. April 28, 2018.
47. **“Beyond Reform & Revolution”**
APEE, Las Vegas, NV. April 4, 2018.
48. **“Methodological Anarchism: Practicing Safe Politics” ***
Association of Practical & Professional Ethics, Chicago, IL. March 2, 2018.
49. **“Methodological Anarchism: Politics Beyond Policy”** (paper with Billy Christmas) *
Philosophy Graduate Conference, *Loyola University (Chicago)*, Chicago, IL. Oct 6, 2017. (Sole presenter)
50. **“Methodological Anarchism: Politics Beyond Policy”** (paper with Billy Christmas) *
PPE Society, New Orleans, LA. March 18, 2017. (Billy Christmas delivered main presentation, questions handled jointly)
51. **“Why Natural Rights Must Be Inalienable Rights” ***
Brave New World Graduate Conference, *MANCEPT*, University of Manchester, Manchester, UK. June 21, 2016.
52. **“Prisons & Slavery”**
APEE, Las Vegas, NV. April 4, 2016.
53. **“Supplying the Demand of Liberation.”**
APA (Eastern Division), Philadelphia, PA. December 29, 2014.

1. **Comments on James Stacey Taylor & Amy E. White's "Why Some Things Should Not (Typically) Be for Sale"**
APA (Central Division), Chicago, IL. February 19, 2026.
2. **Comments on Matt Ferkany's "From Biology to Moral Realism? No Real Path"**
APA (Central Division), Online. February 28, 2025.
3. **Comments on Aaron Elliott's "A Right-Libertarian Argument for Left-Libertarianism"**
APA (Central Division), New Orleans, LA. February 24, 2024.
4. **Comment on Joshua Kissel's "Adequacy, Positional Goods, and Social Change: A Critique of Anderson"**
UIUC Graduate Philosophy Conference, Urbana, IL. April 21, 2018.
5. **Comment on Karolina Wisniewska's "Plans, Projects, and Policies: How Temporal Extension of Agency Can Justify Paternalism"**
UIUC Graduate Philosophy Conference, Urbana, IL. April 20, 2018.
6. **Comment on Gaetano Venezia III's "The Liberal Ironist & the Other"**
Georgia Philosophical Society, Young Harris, GA. April 8, 2017.
7. **Comment on Matt Jeffers's "Egalitarianism and Economic Sovereignty"**
GSU Graduate Philosophy Symposium, Atlanta, GA. February 17, 2017.

TEACHING

1. *Crime & Punishment*, Tulane University. Fall 2026.
2. *Individual, State & Society*, Tulane University. Fall 2026.
3. *Markets & Morality*, Georgetown University. Fall 2025, Spring 2026.
4. *Contemporary Moral Problems*, University of Michigan. Summer 2025.
5. *Introduction to Philosophy*, Georgia State University. Summer 2016, Fall 2016 (2 classes), Spring 2017 (2 classes).

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS & RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

1. Graduate Student Instructor, *Introduction to Ethics* (Lead Instructor: Dan Lowe), University of Michigan. Fall 2024. (2 sections of 1 class.)
2. Head Graduate Student Instructor, *Minds & Machines* (Lead Instructor: Eric Swanson), University of Michigan. Winter (Spring) 2023. (2 sections of 1 class + assisting other GSIs.)
3. Graduate Student Instructor, *Introduction to Political Economy* (Lead Instructor: Dan Lowe), University of Michigan. Fall 2022. (2 sections of 1 class.)
4. Graduate Student Instructor, *Introduction to Philosophy* (Lead Instructor: Sarah Moss), University of Michigan. Winter (Spring) 2022. (2 sections of 1 class.)
5. Graduate Student Instructor, *Introduction to Political Philosophy* (Lead Instructor: Dan Lowe), University of Michigan. Fall 2021. (2 sections of 1 class.)
6. Graduate Student Instructor, *Contemporary Moral Problems* (Lead Instructor: Dan Lowe), University of Michigan. Winter (Spring) 2021. (2 sections of 1 class.)
7. Graduate Student Instructor, *Contemporary Moral Problems: Rights & Races* (Lead Instructor: Daniel Herwitz), University of Michigan. Fall 2020. (2 sections of 1 class.)
8. Research Assistant, Andrew Jason Cohen, Georgia State University. Spring 2016.
9. Supplemental Instruction Leader, *Critical Thinking*, Georgia State University. Fall 2015.

Referee for: *American Philosophical Quarterly*; *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*; *Economics & Philosophy*; *European Journal of Political Theory*; *Journal of Ethics*; *Philosophy & Public Affairs*; *Public Affairs Quarterly*; *Res Publica*; and an edited anthology for Routledge.

Organizer for: Michigan-MIT Social Philosophy Workshop 2021 – 2023; Michigan Ethics Discussion Group (“EDGe”) 2021 – 2024.