Kenneth Silver, PhD

Trinity Business School

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Academic Employment

Trinity College Dublin, *Associate Professor in Business Ethics* 2023-present
  Trinity Business School

Trinity College Dublin, *Assistant Professor in Business Ethics* 2019-2023
  Trinity Business School

University of Southern California, *Dornsife Preceptor* 2017-2019
  Dornsife College of Letters, Arts, & Sciences

Education

Ph.D. in Philosophy, University of Southern California 2017
  Dissertation: "The Constitution of Action"
  Committee: John Hawthorne (co-chair), Gabriel Uzquiano (co-chair), Kadri Vihvelin,
  Gary Watson, Ron Artstein

  Areas of Specialization: Business Ethics, Philosophy of Action
  Areas of Competency: Metaphysics, PPE, Applied Ethics

B.A. with Honors in Philosophy, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill 2010
  Honor's Thesis: "Chairs Exist, and that's No Trivial Matter"

Grant Funding

ERC Starting Grant May 2023
  - *Corporate Moral Progress* (CMP) (5 years, €1.37 million)
  - *CMP* seeks to decisively argue that corporations can be morally responsible for their
    conduct. It will consider the primary sources of corporate immorality and engineer
    mechanisms for moral improvement, integrating work from philosophy to the
    management sciences.

Publications

Journal articles:

(17) "Excusing Corporate Wrongdoing and the State of Nature," with Paul Garofalo, *Academy of Management Review*, DOI: 10.5465/amr.2020.0236. Forthcoming.

(16) "When Should the Master Answer? Respondeat Superior and the Criminal Law," *Criminal Law and Philosophy*, DOI: 10.1007/s11572-023-09659-7. Forthcoming.

(15) "Determination from Above," *Philosophical Issues*, 33(1): 237-251. October 2023.

(14) "Markets within the Limit of Feasibility," *Journal of Business Ethics*, 182: 1087-1101. Feb. 2023.

(13) "Backwards Causation in Social Institutions," *Erkenntnis*, DOI: 10.1007/s10670-022-00613-y. September 2022.

(12) "Group Action Without Group Minds," *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 104(2): 321-342. May 2022.

(11) "Causal Exclusion and Ontic Vagueness," *Australasian Journal of Philosophy,* 100(1): 56-69. Jan. 2022.

(10) "Wronging by Requesting," with N. G. Laskowski, *Oxford Studies in Normative Ethics (Vol.11)*, Mark C. Timmons (Ed.). 2021.

(9) "Emergence within Social Systems," *Synthese*, 199(3): 7865-7887. Dec. 2021.

(8) "Strategy (Part I): Conceptual Foundations," *Philosophy Compass,* 16(1): e12717. Jan. 2021.

(7) "Habitual Weakness," *Thought: A Journal of Philosophy*, 8(4): 270-277. Dec. 2019.

(6) "Modern Portfolio Theory and Shareholder Primacy," *Business Ethics Journal Review*, 7(6): 34-49. Sept. 2019.

(5) "Can a Corporation Be Worthy of Moral Consideration?" *Journal of Business Ethics*, 159(1): 253-265. Sept. 2019.

(4) "Avoiding Late Preemption with the Right Kind of Influence," *Philosophia*, 47(4): 1297-1312. Sept. 2019.

(3) "Omissions as Events and Actions," *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*, 4(1): 33-48. Sept. 2018.

(2) "The Vague Time of a Killing," *Philosophical Studies*, 175(6): 1383-1400. June 2018.

(1) "Do I Think Corporations Should be Able to Vote Now?" *Business Ethics Journal Review*, 6(4): 18-23. May 2018.

Book review:

"*Divested: Inequality in the Age of Finance*, by Ken-Hou Lin and Megan Tobias Neely. New York: Oxford University Press, 2020. 232pp." *Business Ethics Quarterly*, 32(1): 203-207. Jan. 2022.

"Omissions: Agency, Metaphysics, and Responsibility, by Randolph Clarke," *Mind*, 124(496): 1264-1268. Sept. 2015.

Media Engagement

Irish Times interview: "Do you really deserve the great job you have?" Jan. 15, 2024, interviewed by Joe Humphreys
Irish Times interview: "Is it ethical to stay on Twitter now Elon Musk is in charge?" Dec. 1, 2022, interviewed by Joe Humphreys
Daily Nous, guest post: "Why and How to Get a Job in a Business School: A Guide for Philosophers," February 8, 2022
Pea Soup Ethics Blogpost: "My Way: The Ethics of Financial Contributions" (with N. G. Laskowski), April 10, 2019
Roundtable on the Ethics of VR/AR, Upload LA, June 2017

Work in Progress

"Metaphysics Incorporated"
Corporate Responsibility & Corporate Rights
"Corporate Oppression"
"Corporate Moral Competency"
"Paradigms as Collective Agential Orientations"

Presentations (invited = *)

"Paradigms as Collective Agential Orientations," exp. July 2024, Durham, NC, International Social Ontology Society annual meeting

* "Corporate Moral Competency," exp. June 2024, Dublin, Trinity Workshop on Skill, Control, and Expertise

"Corporate Oppression," exp. March 2024, Bentley University, New Approaches to Business Ethics

"Navigating the Concepts of Management Theory," exp. March 2024, U. of Edinburgh, Journal of Management Studies conference 'Interdisciplinarity in Management Research'

"Guilty by Association: How Group Membership Can Undermine Standing to Blame," Oct. 2023, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Normative Philosophy Conference

* "Corporate Moral Status," Aug. 2023, Dublin, Trinity Workshop on Moral Status

"Guilty by Association: How Group Membership Can Undermine Standing to Blame," Aug. 2023, Stockholm, International Social Ontology Society annual meeting

"Theory of the Firm and Corporate Function," Aug. 2023, Boston, Society for Business Ethics annual meeting

* "The Standing of Self-Identity," July 2023, VU Amsterdam, Ethics Workshop

* "Transforming Business for Good," July 2023, Zurich, Climate Change and Group Agency, ETH Zurich

"Theory of the Firm and Corporate Function," May 2023, Business Ethics in the 6ix, Ted Rogers School of Business Management at Toronto Metropolitan University

"Theory of the Firm and Corporate Function," April 2023, Wharton School of Business, Zicklin Center Normative Business Ethics Workshop

* "The Standing of Self-Identity," March 2023, Trinity College Dublin, Philosophy Colloquium

* "Expanding the When and How of Democratic Inclusion," Nov. 2022, University College Dublin, Political Theory workshop

"Corporate Weakness," Aug. 2022, Society for Business Ethics Annual Meeting, **Finalist for Best Conference Paper**

"The Identity of Social Enterprise," Aug. 2022, International Social Ontology Society Annual Conference in Vienna

"Must I Forgive: Elective Forgiveness and Self-Respect," Aug. 2022, poster presentation at Rocky Mountains Ethics Congress (RoME)

* "Corporate Abilities: Foundations and Scope," Feb. 2022, workshop: 'The Abilities of Groups', University of Vienna

* "Determination from Above," Sept. 2021, SOPhiA 2021, workshop: 'Realities of Free Will'

"Metaphysics Incorporated," Sept. 2021, MANCEPT, workshop: 'The Normative Profile of Collective Agents'

"Metaphysics Incorporated," Aug. 2021, International Social Ontology Society Annual Conference

"Markets within the Limit of Feasibility," Aug. 2021, Society for Business Ethics Annual Meeting

"Respondeat Superior and the Criminal Law: When Should the Master Answer?" March 2021, the Inaugural Criminal Theory Conference, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

"Fair Decisions, Hard and Soft" (with Greg Faletto), Nov. 2020, University of Copenhagen, Workshop on Algorithmic Fairness

* "What's Immoral About Investing in Immoral Corporations?" March 2020, Competence Center for Strategy and Competitiveness, FHWien der WKW, University of Applied Sciences for Management and Communication in Vienna, Austria

"Group Weakness," Jan. 2020, Colloquium at the Eastern Division American Philosophical Association Meeting

* "Corporate *Mens Rea*," Nov. 2019, Trinity College Dublin, Symposium on Alex Sarch's *Criminally Ignorant: Why the Law Pretends We Know What We Don't*

"How to Not Rule Out the Market Failures Approach," Oct. 2019, Dublin, the 26th International Vincentian Business Ethics Conference (IVBEC)

"Group Weakness," Sept. 2019, University College Dublin Center for Ethics & Public Life, Book Workshop on Stephanie Collins' *Group Duties*

"Competitive Advantage as a Disposition," Aug. 2019, STR Division, Academy of Management Annual Meeting

"The Value of Corporate Criminal Responsibility," Aug. 2019, Society for Business Ethics Annual Meeting

"The State of Nature and Excusing Corporate Wrongdoing" co-presented with Paul Garofalo, Aug. 2019, Society for Business Ethics Annual Meeting

"The Market Failures Approach and the Ideal World Objection," March 2019, New Orleans, for the Philosophy, Politics, & Economics (PPE) Society Annual Meeting

"Group Action Without Group Minds," Aug. 2018, Tufts University, Social Ontology 2018, the 11th Biennial Collective Intentionality Conference

"Corporate Action Without Corporate Minds," Aug. 2018, Society for Business Ethics Annual Meeting, **Finalist for Best Conference Paper**

"What's Immoral About Investing in Immoral Corporations?" May 2018, Business Ethics in the 6ix, Ted Rogers School of Business Management at Ryerson University

"Vagueness and Exclusion," April 2018, Colloquium at the Pacific Division American Philosophical Association Meeting

"What's Immoral About Investing in Immoral Corporations?" March 2018, McDonough School of Business, Georgetown University, Business Ethics Workshop

"Corporate Behavior and Corporate Action," Dec. 2017, Wharton School of Business, Zicklin Center Normative Business Ethics Workshop

"Does Davidson's View of Action Extend to Corporate Action?" Nov. 2017, Third Taiwan Metaphysics Colloquium

"What's Immoral About Investing in Immoral Corporations?" Aug. 2017, Society for Business Ethics Annual Meeting, Emerging Scholars Section

"Causal Exclusion and Constitution," April 2017, Colloquium at the Pacific Division American Philosophical Association Meeting

"Can You Wrong a Corporation?" Jan. 2017, Wharton School of Business, Zicklin Center Normative Business Ethics Workshop

"Ethics for a Combined Human-Machine Dialogue Agent," with Ron Artstein, March 2016, Stanford, Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence Spring Symposium

* "Randolph Clarke's, *Omissions: Agency, Metaphysics, and Responsibility*" April 2015, Author Meets Critics session at the Pacific Division American Philosophical Association Meeting

"The Constitution of Action" Feb. 2014, Symposium at the Central Division APA

"Causation and Rule-Relativity" April 2013, Yale/UConn Graduate Philosophy Conference

Presented as Commentator

* Comments on Andreas Vassiliou's, "Knowing When to Know Best," Jan. 2024, Irish Jurisprudence Society

* Comments on Dulce Maria Redin Goni's, "In The Multitude of Words, Sin is Not Lacking: An Analysis of Codes of Ethics Across Fortune 500 Companies," Sept. 2023, Groningen University, Groningen – Wharton PPE Workshop

Comments on Elinor Taylor's, "Social Essentialism and Social Inquiry," June 2023, Duke University, Social Metaphysics Workshop

* Comments on Quyen Pham's, "Structuralism about Social Groups," Nov. 2022, USC/Shandong Conference

Comments on Andrew Law's, "No Counterfactual is Sufficient for Freedom," April 2019, Colloquium at the Pacific Division APA Meeting

Professional Affiliation

The Academy of Management   The Society for Business Ethics
The American Philosophical Association   The International Social Ontology Society
Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society

Awards

Excellence in Teaching Award from Trinity Business School for "Business Ethics" (2023)
Finalist for Best Conference Paper Award, Society for Business Ethics Annual Meeting 2022
Excellence in Teaching Award from Trinity Business School for "Business Ethics and
Corporate Responsibility" (2022)
Finalist for Best Conference Paper Award, Society for Business Ethics Annual Meeting 2018
Society for Business Ethics Founders' Award (2017)
Worth Award, UNC (2010) – awarded annually to a senior for excellence in philosophy

Teaching Experience

Instructor of Record:
  Postgraduate:
    Philosophy and Practice of Research Design (PhD program)   Spring 2023-continuing
    Business Ethics & Corporate Responsibility (Flexible Executive MBA)   2022-continuing

  Executive Education:
    Segment: The Ethics of Artificial Intelligence   Delivered Nov. 2019

  Undergraduate:
    Business Ethics   Spring 2020-Fall 2023
    Fundamentals of Philosophy, Ethics, and Social Science   Fall 2019-Spring 2023
    Are Corporations People?   Fall 2017-Spring 2019

Teaching Assistant at USC, undergraduate:
    Ideas on Trial (Prof. Ed McCann)   Spring 2019
    Philosophy of Film (Prof. Ed McCann)   Fall 2015, Fall 2016
    Social Ethics for Earthlings and Others (Prof. Sharon Lloyd)   Spring 2014
    Mind and Self (Prof. Jake Ross)   Fall 2013
    Issues in Space and Time (Prof. Shieva Kleinschmidt)   Spring 2013, Spring 2017
    Ancient Greek Culture and Society (Prof. Frank Lewis)   Fall 2012
    Philosophy of Love (Prof. Ed McCann)   Spring 2012, Spring 2018
    Science, Religion, and the Making of the Modern Mind (Prof. John Dreher)   Fall 2011

Workshop on Teaching Professional Business Ethics, Georgetown University, McDonough School
    of Business (June 2018)

Leadership Experience

Associate to the Director of Undergraduate Teaching and Learning, TBS	2023-present
Organizer of the Trinity Workshop on Moral Status	Aug. 2023
Steering Committee Member, *Trinity Centre for Justice and Values*	2020-present
Co-Organizer, Trinity Business Ethics Speaker Series, TBS	2020-present
Associate Director, Global Business Programme, TBS	2021-2023
Head of Fresh, Trinity Business School	2020-2021
Vice President, USC Philosophy Graduate Organization	2014-2015
Senator, USC Graduate Student Government	2014-2015
Organizer, USC Speculative Society	2012-2013

Service to Discipline

Society for Business Ethics representative for the American Philosophical Association
Referee: *Oxford University Press, Academy of Management Review, Business Ethics Quarterly, Noûs, Australasian, Philosophical Studies, Journal of the APA, Journal of Institutional Economics, Philosophical Quarterly, Pacific Philosophical Quarterly, Journal of Philosophical Research, Southern Journal of Philosophy, Journal of Applied Philosophy, Public Affairs Quarterly, Philosophers' Imprint, Topoi, Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy, Erkenntnis*
Referee for EURAM, AOM Annual Conference, SBE Annual Conference (x3), USC/UCLA Annual Graduate Conference (x3)

Service to Trinity

College Tutor, 2022-present
Associate Director, Global Business Programme, TBS, 2021-present
Trinity College Foundation Scholarship Exam, various roles 2019-present
Trinity Business School Post-Graduate Appeals Committee, member 2020-present
Athena Swan Trinity Business School Self-Assessment Team, member 2019-2020
Trinity Research Ethics Committee, member 2019-2020

Business and Professional Experience

Passed CFA Level 1	
Rosano Partners Commercial Real Estate, *Special Projects Consultant*	June 2016-Aug. 2016
Charity Brands Consulting, *Market Research Specialist*	Feb. 2016-June 2016

Experimental Experience

IRB-Certified Study: "It's Okay; I Understand"   2009
      Supervised by Joshua Knobe
      Discovers layman intuitions on the conventional versus moral rule distinction
      Findings presented at UNC-CH research colloquium, 2009

References

External References for Business Ethics:
    John Hasnas – hasnasj@georgetown.edu (202-687-4825)
    William English – william.english@georgetown.edu (202-456-7890)

For Philosophy:
    John Hawthorne – jhawthor@usc.edu (424-205-7171)
    Gabriel Uzquiano – uzquiano@usc.edu (213-740-1074)
    Gary Watson – glwatson@usc.edu (714-906-0361)
    Kadri Vihvelin – vihvelin@usc.edu (213-740-5185)

For Teaching: Ed McCann – mccann@dornsife.usc.edu (213-740-5169)