

Kenneth Silver, PhD

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Academic Employment

Trinity College Dublin, <i>Assistant Professor in Business Ethics</i> Trinity Business School	2019-current
University of Southern California, <i>Dornsife Preceptor</i> Dornsife College of Letters, Arts, & Sciences	2017-2019

Education

Ph.D. in Philosophy, University of Southern California Dissertation: "The Constitution of Action" Committee: John Hawthorne (co-chair), Gabriel Uzquiano (co-chair), Kadri Vihvelin, Gary Watson, Ron Artstein	2017
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Areas of Specialization:</i> Business Ethics, Philosophy of Action <i>Areas of Competency:</i> Metaphysics, PPE, Applied Ethics</p>	
B.A. with Honors in Philosophy, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Honor's Thesis: "Chairs Exist, and that's No Trivial Matter"	2010

Grant Funding

ERC Starting Grant	starting May 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Corporate Moral Progress</i> (CMP) (5 years, €1.37 million)- <i>CMP</i> 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:

- (15) "When Should the Master Answer? Respondeat Superior and the Criminal Law," *Criminal Law and Philosophy*, forthcoming.
- (14) "Backwards Causation in Social Institutions," *Erkenntnis*, forthcoming.
- (13) "Markets within the Limit of Feasibility," *Journal of Business Ethics*, forthcoming.
- (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

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”

“Competitive Advantage as a Disposition”

“The Wrong of Investing in Immoral Corporations”

“How to Justify Holding Corporations Responsible”

“Excusing Corporate Wrongdoing and the State of Nature” (with Paul Garofalo)

Presentations (invited = *)

“Theory of the Firm and Genealogy,” exp. April 2023, Wharton School of Business, Zicklin Center Normative Business Ethics Workshop

* “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, FH Wien 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/UCConn Graduate Philosophy Conference

Presented as Commentator

* 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

Awards

Finalist for Best Conference Paper Award, Society for Business Ethics Annual Meeting 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:

Business Ethics & Corporate Responsibility (Flexible Executive MBA) Spring 2022

Executive Education:

Segment: The Ethics of Artificial Intelligence Delivered Nov. 2019

Undergraduate:

Business Ethics Spring 2020-continuing
Fundamentals of Philosophy, Ethics, and Social Science Fall 2019-continuing
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)

Professional Affiliation

The Academy of Management
The American Philosophical Association
Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society

The Society for Business Ethics
The International Social Ontology Society

Leadership Experience

Associate Director, Global Business Programme, TBS	2021-present
Steering Committee Member, <i>Trinity Centre for Justice and Values</i>	2020-present
Co-Organizer, Trinity Business Ethics Speaker Series, TBS	2020-present
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, 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, <i>Special Projects Consultant</i>	June 2016-Aug. 2016
Charity Brands Consulting, <i>Market Research Specialist</i>	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)