Kenneth Silver, PhD, FTCD

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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: Philosophy of Action, Business Ethics
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"
Supervisor: John Roberts

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:

(25) "Morally Justifying Corporate Criminal Liability," *Law & Philosophy*. Forthcoming.

(24) "What Precedent Reveals About Group Agency: Evidence from Discursive Dilemmas on the U.S. Supreme Court," with Brian Flanagan, Njogu Mbau, and Daniel Chen, *Journal of Social Ontology*, Forthcoming.

(23) "Corporate Oppression," *Business Ethics Quarterly*. Forthcoming.

(22) "The Standing of Self-Identity," *Hypatia*. Forthcoming.

(21) "The Function of Firms," *Business Ethics Quarterly*. Forthcoming.

(20) "The Permissibility of Blaming Arbitrarily," *Inquiry*. Forthcoming.

(19) "Don't Tell Me to Change: A Right to Not Have Transformative Experiences," *Res Philosophica*, 103(1): 105-116. January 2026.

(18) "Excusing Corporate Wrongdoing and the State of Nature," with Paul Garofalo, *Academy of Management Review*, 50(3): 537-559. July 2025.

(17) "Corporate Weakness of Will," *Journal of Business Ethics*, 199: 731-747. July 2025.

(16) "Backwards Causation in Social Institutions," *Erkenntnis*, 89(5): 1973-1991. June 2024.

(15) "When Should the Master Answer? Respondeat Superior and the Criminal Law," *Criminal Law and Philosophy*, 18: 89-108. April 2024.

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

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

(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.

Edited volume contributions:

"Are there certain things that just should not be for sale?" for *An Introduction to Business Ethics*, Routledge, edited by Vikram Vhargava and Michael Kates. Forthcoming.

"A world without Shai'tan: The significance of free will in the Wheel of Time" for *The Wheel of Time and Philosophy* (pp. 55-64), Wiley, edited by Jacob M. Held. July 2025.

Book review:

"Collins, Stephanie. *Organizations as Wrongdoers: From Ontology to Morality*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2023. Pp. 208. $80.00 (cloth)." *Ethics*, 134(4): 573-578. June 2024.

"*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.

Work in Progress

Corporate Responsibility & Corporate Rights
"Could Artificial Agents have Dignity?"
"The Methodology of Corporate Moral Responsibility"
"Does Loose Coupling Undermine Corporate Autonomy?"
"Recovering Paradigms"

Media Engagement

QS Insights Magazine interview: "Skills, not Suits", April 2024
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

Presentations (invited = *)

"Workplace Democracy and Organizational Commitment," Exp. Dec. 2026, Bogotá, Universidad de Los Andes, PPEL in the Global South 2026

"Commitment to Strawson," Sept. 2026, Austria, University of Salzburg, Second Conference of the European Moral Responsibility Consortium

"Corporate Limitarianism," July 2026, Philadelphia, Society for Business Ethics annual meeting

* **Keynote:** "Implications of Corporate Privilege: Metaphysical and Moral," July 2026, Krakow, Jagiellonian University, International Social Ontology Society annual meeting

"What Depends on the Corporate Mind?" July 2026, Munich, European Congress for Metaphysics

* "Corporate Limitarianism," May 2026, Rome, Second LUISS-Wharton Conference: Business and the Future of Democracy

* "Could Artificial Agents have Dignity?" Apr. 2026, Wuhan University, colloquium

* **Keynote:** "Corporate Limitarianism," Jan. 2026, The Sustainable Corporation Workshop, Groningen University

* "Typical Agency," Dec. 2025, Université de Neuchâtel, colloquium

"How Groups Respond to Their Reasons," with Sophie Keeling, Aug. 2025, Dublin, International Social Ontology Society annual meeting

"Can Group Agents have Acquaintance Knowledge," with Michael Markunas, Aug. 2025, Dublin, International Social Ontology Society annual meeting

* "How Groups Respond to Their Reasons" with Sophie Keeling, July 2025, Universidade de Santiago, Social Cognition and Collective Agency

* **Keynote:** "Does Dignity Require Phenomenal Consciousness?" July 2025, Oxford, Institute for Ethics in AI, Artificial Intelligence and Collective Agency

"Corporate Oppression," May 2025, Utrecht, Reconceiving Business Corporations in Times of Political Contestation

* "Corporate Limitarianism," April 2025, Krakow, Jagiellonian Center for Law, Language and Philosophy

* "Chapter 4: Corporate Moral Responsibility," April 2025, Krakow, Jagiellonian Center for Law, Language and Philosophy

* "Limitarianism and Criminalization," March 2025, Bentley University Center for Business Ethics, online seminar series

* "The Hermeneutic Objection to Markets," March 2025, Dublin, Trinity College Dublin Philosophy Colloquium

* "Chapter 7: Corporate Moral Rights," November 2024, Surrey Centre for Law and Philosophy

* "The Intentional Action of Group Agents: Not so Simple," October 2024, the Collective Ethics Seminar, hosted by the University of Vienna

"Corporate Oppression," August 2024, Chicago, Society for Business Ethics annual meeting

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

"Attending to a Reason's Weight," July 2024, University of Birmingham, England, Joint Session of the Aristotelian Society and Mind Association

* "Does Loose Coupling Undermine Corporate Autonomy?" June 2024, Dublin, Trinity Workshop on Skill, Control, and Expertise

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

"Navigating the Concepts of Management Theory," 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

Undergraduate Conferences presentations:

- Venues: Pacific University, Forest Grove, OR (April 2008); Univ. of North Carolina-Asheville, Asheville, NC (November 2007); Univ. of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC (April 2007, March and April 2008); Illinois Wesleyan University, Bloomington, IL (March 2007)
- Papers: "Why the Consequentialist Would Not Push the Fat Guy," "Making Chairs," "Building Being: Skepticism about Reason"

Presented as Commentator

* Comments on Jade Fletcher's, "Social Practices, Normativity, and Ideological Construction," June 2026, Trinity Normativity Workshop
* Comments on Jiani Zhong's, "Free Will as a Fundamentally Contested Concept," Oct. 2025, Irish Jurisprudence Society
* Comments on Kenneth Himma's, "Revisiting the Limits of Experimental Jurisprudence," June 2024, Experimental Jurisprudence Workshop
* 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

Awards

Excellence in Teaching Award, TBS, "Business Ethics and Corporate Responsibility" (2025)
Excellence in Teaching Award, TBS, "Business Ethics and Corporate Responsibility" (2024)
Excellence in Teaching Award, TBS, "Business Ethics" (2023)
Finalist for Best Conference Paper Award, Society for Business Ethics (2022)
Excellence in Teaching Award, TBS, "Business Ethics and Corporate Responsibility" (2022)
Finalist for Best Conference Paper Award, Society for Business Ethics (2018)
Society for Business Ethics Founders' Award (2017)
Worth Award, UNC (2010) – awarded annually to a senior for excellence in philosophy

Leadership Experience

Vice President, International Social Ontology Society	July 2026-present
Steering Committee Member, International Social Ontology Society	2024-present
Associate to the Director of Undergraduate Teaching and Learning, TBS	2023-2024
Steering Committee Member, *Trinity Centre for Justice and Values*	2020-2024
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

Teaching Experience

Instructor of Record:

Postgraduate:

Philosophy and Practice of Research Design (PhD program)	Spring 2023-Spring 2024
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)

PhD Students:

As supervisor: Sergei Levin (still enrolled), John Mock (still enrolled)
As external committee member: Michael Eigner (Defended Nov. 2026)

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

Service to Discipline

Co-Organizer, Trinity Normativity Workshop	June 2026
Lead Organizer, Social Ontology 2025, the annual meeting of ISOS	Aug. 2025
Society for Business Ethics representative for the APA	2023-present
Organizer, Trinity Workshop on Skill, Control, and Expertise	June 2024
Organizer, Trinity Workshop on Moral Status	Aug. 2023
Co-Organizer, Trinity Business Ethics Speaker Series, TBS	2020-2023
Organizer, USC Speculative Society	2012-2013

Referee: *Oxford University Press, Academy of Management Review, Business Ethics Quarterly, Noûs, Philosophy and Phenomenological Research, 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, American Philosophical Quarterly*

Referee for EURAM, AOM Annual Conference, SBE Annual Conference, USC/UCLA Annual Graduate Conference

Service to Trinity

College Tutor, 2022-present
Trinity Business School Post-Graduate Appeals Committee, member 2020-present, chair 2026-present
Trinity College Foundation Scholarship Exam, various roles 2019-2024
Associate Director, Global Business Programme, TBS, 2021-2023
Athena Swan Trinity Business School Self-Assessment Team, member 2019-2020
Trinity College 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
Discovered 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)