

Nathan Warren Biebel
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Areas of Specialization Ethics
 Metaethics
 Epistemology
 Agency and Responsibility

Areas of Competence Moral Psychology
 Metaphysics (esp. Personal Identity)
 Applied Ethics (esp. Environmental Ethics and Tech Ethics)
 Logic

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

Education

Ph.D., Philosophy, Tulane University. Conferred August 15th, 2019
Dissertation: "The Justification Thesis: A Theory of Culpable Ignorance"
(Committee: David Shoemaker (chair), Bruce Brower, Alison Denham, Michael Zimmerman)

M.A., Philosophy, Brandeis University, 2012
B.A., Philosophy, Palm Beach Atlantic University 2010

Dissertation Abstract

One of the most common excuses is a claim of ignorance. But Ignorance does not always count as an excuse, for sometimes ignorance is culpable and culpable ignorance does not excuse. In my dissertation I present and defend a theory of culpable ignorance that states that ignorance counts as an excuse only if it is justified, and ignorance does not excuse only if it is not justified (I call this the justification thesis). In chapter one I present and defend a version of the justification thesis that is built on a pragmatic view of justification. The remaining four chapters of the dissertation takes this version of the justification thesis and aims to show how it can provide answers to important questions regarding ignorance and moral responsibility.

Positions Held

Postdoctoral Researcher with the Normative and Moral Foundations Research Group at the University of Vienna (4-month to begin July 1-Oct 30, 2022)
Visiting Assistant Professor, Tulane University, 2019-2022
Adjunct Professor, Tulane University 2018-2019

Research Assistant, Murphy Institute Center for Ethics and Public Affairs, Tulane University 2018-2019

Technical and Creative Consultant, PEA Soup Ethics Blog, Prindle Institute for Ethics, DePauw University 2018-2020

Graduate Instructor, Tulane University 2014-2018a

RESEARCH

Published Papers

"Epistemic Justification and the Ignorance Excuse," *Philosophical Studies* (2018) 175:3005-3028 (Online first: <http://www.springer.com/-/2/AV8c-83hPu4eLAsZtLQj>)

Papers in Progress

"Culpable Ignorance and Unwitting Wrongdoing" – Under Review

"Forget and Forgive? How excuses impact blame for ordinary forgetfulness" – Empirical Study, Under Review

"Reasonable Standards and Exculpating Moral Ignorance" – Under Review

"How to Resist Epistemic Skepticism about Moral Responsibility" – Under Review

"Blame Without Blameworthiness" – In Preparation

"Non-Tracing Counterexamples: Tracing Their Mistake" – In preparation

PRESENTATIONS

Presented Papers

"Blame Without Blameworthiness" Mistakes, Ignorance, and Blameworthiness, Workshop at the Roots of Responsibility Project, University College London September 2020

"How to Avoid Epistemic Skepticism about Moral Responsibility" 69th Annual Meeting of the Metaphysical Society of America, March 2018

"How to Avoid Epistemic Skepticism about Moral Responsibility" Philosopher's Cocoon Philosophy Conference, October 2017

"Causal Guidance: Making Room for Agents" Brandeis University Graduate Mini-Conference, April 2012

Invited Talks

Guest Lecture – "Self-Knowledge and Introspection: Problems with Self-Report" Tulane University, Fall 2018

Discussion Leader – "Personal Identity" Tulane University Philosophy Club Fall 2018

Guest Lecture – "Self-Knowledge and Introspection: Problems with Self-Report" Tulane University, Summer 2018

Invited Commenter

"Gathering Evidence as an Epistemic Obligation" by Carolina Flores and Elise Woodard at the American Philosophical Association western division, April 2021