

STEVE COYNE

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EDUCATION

- 2021 Ph.D., Philosophy, University of Toronto. Dissertation: “Liberal Theories of Political Authority.” Supervisor: David Dyzenhaus.
- 2011 M.A., Philosophy, University of British Columbia.
- 2009 B.A. (Hons.), Philosophy, University of Calgary.
- 2009 B.Sc., Applied Mathematics, University of Calgary.

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2022–present Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream, Departments of Philosophy & Computer Science, University of Toronto (St. George).
- 2021–2022 Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream, Department of Philosophy, University of Toronto (Mississauga).

PUBLICATIONS

- 2025 “The Sources of Authoritative Exclusion,” *Law and Philosophy* 44: 269–293.
- 2024 “The Role of Civility in Political Disobedience,” *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 52(2): 221–250.
- 2024 “Do Embedded Ethics Modules Have Impact Beyond the Classroom?” (with Horton, McIlraith, Liu, Wang) *SIGCSE Proceedings*.
- 2016 “Coercion and Obligation as Exercises of Authority,” *Jurisprudence* 7(3): 575–592.

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2025 D2L Innovation Award in Teaching and Learning (with Horton, Liu, McIlraith, national award, 5 annually across Canada).
- 2024 Northrop Frye Award (with Horton, Liu, McIlraith, University of Toronto Provost’s award for initiatives enhancing undergraduate education).
- 2020 Martha Lile Love Teaching Award, Honourable Mention (departmental teaching and innovation award).
- 2018 Dean’s Graduate Superior Teaching Award (U of T-wide recognition of outstanding teaching by graduate students, one awarded annually).

REFEREED RESEARCH TALKS

- 2025 “Non-instrumental Values in AI Alignment,” TEXNECON, MIT, Boston.
- 2024 “The Legitimacy of Embedded Ethics: Three Arguments,” TEXNECON, Northeastern University, Boston.
- 2024 “Compensatory Moral Powers Under Majority Rule,” Canadian Philosophical Association, Online.
- 2024 “Majority Rule and Compensatory Powers,” Canadian Philosophical Association, Montreal.
- 2021 “Civil Disobedience as Reason-Giving,” Canadian Philosophical Association, Edmonton.
- 2018 “Political Authority as Arbitrational Authority,” Western Canadian Philosophical Association, Calgary.
- 2017 “Authority and the Problem of Moral Reach,” Canadian Philosophical Association, Toronto.
- 2016 “Coercion and Obligation as Exercises of Authority,” Canadian Philosophical Association, Calgary; World Congress of Philosophy of Law, Washington DC.
- 2015 “Managerial and Arbitrational Authority,” Canadian Philosophical Association, Ottawa; Western Canadian Philosophical Association, Vancouver.
- 2014 “A Right-that-he-be-ruled Account of Authority,” University of Waterloo Graduate Conference; Canadian Philosophical Association, St. Catherines.
- 2011 “The Open Question Argument: An Argument for Non-Reductive Moral Naturalism?” Western Canadian Philosophical Association, Lethbridge.
- 2011 “Street’s Darwinian Dilemma for Naturalist Theories of Value,” Evolution of Morality and Morality of Evolution Conference, Oxford.
- 2011 “Do Referential Intentions Solve Moral Naturalism’s Twin Earth Problem?” Society for Exact Philosophy, Winnipeg.

INVITED TALKS

- 2025 “Against All Odds: The Sandbox’s Asynchronous Collaboration across Disciplines” (with William Ryan), U of T Teaching & Learning Symposium.
- 2024 “The Embedded Ethics Education Initiative,” (with Horton, Liu, McIlraith), OVIPUE Discovery Series, Office of the Provost, University of Toronto
- 2024 “Building an Embedded Ethics Education Initiative,” (with Horton, Liu, McIlraith), Schwartz-Reisman Institute for Science and Technology
- 2023 “The Ethics of Recommendations: Algorithms and Collaborative Filtering,” Department Colloquium, Dalhousie University.
- 2023 “Mitigating Racial Bias in AI Research,” Centre for Research and Innovation Support, University of Toronto.

2023 “From Pilot to Program: Lessons from the E3I Interdisciplinary Ethics Initiative” (with Horton, Liu, McIlraith), U of T Teaching Community of Practice.

2022 “Medical Disobedience: The Case of Henry Morgentaler,” Philosophy Course Union, University of Toronto.

COMMENTS

2025 Comments on Deborah Hellman’s draft paper “The Proxy Problem,” SWEET ‘25, University of Florida, Gainesville.

2023 Comments on Gil Hersch’s paper “Choice, Exit, Paternalism,” Ethics in the 6ix, Toronto Metropolitan University

SERVICE

External

Referee for *Journal of Philosophy* (1x), *Noûs* (1x), *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy* (1x).

Referee for SSHRC Insight Grant, 2025

Program Committee Member, ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (ACM FaCCT), 2024

Internal

Undergraduate Affairs Committee, Department of Computer Science, 2025

Undergraduate Research Committee, Department of Computer Science, 2024

Ethics Bowl Judge, 2022, 2025

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Undergraduate Courses Taught (at University of Toronto)

Course	Sessions
Ethics and Data (PHL277)	Winter 2025
Law and Morality (PHL271)	Fall 2023, Summer 2020, Summer 2019, Summer 2018 x 2, Summer 2017
Business Ethics (PHL295)	Winter 2023
Issues in Environmental Ethics: Ecofeminism (PHL373)	Winter 2024, Fall 2022
Issues in Philosophy of Law: Authority and Civil Disobedience (PHL370)	Winter 2025, Fall 2022, Fall 2021, Winter 2020 x 2, Summer 2017, Summer 2016, Summer 2015
Bioethics (PHL281)	Summer 2021, Summer 2019
Introduction to Ethics (PHLA11)	Fall 2020

Advanced Seminar in Political Philosophy (PHLD78)	Winter 2021
Environmental Ethics (PHL273)	Summer 2020
Topics in Normative Ethics (PHL374)	Fall 2021
Critical Reasoning (PHL239)	Fall 2021, Winter 2022

Ethics Modules and other Programming Taught / Supervised with the Embedded Ethics Education Initiative (E3I)

Course	Sessions	Topic
CSC108 – Introductory Programming	Fall 2023, Winter 2024, Fall 2024, Winter 2025	Property Rights and Tiny Language Models
CSC111/148 – Intro Computer Science II	Winter 2022, Fall 2022, Winter 2023, Fall 2023, Winter 2024, Summer 2024, Fall 2024, Winter 2025	Privacy and Contact Tracing (module originally developed by other E3I instructors)
CSC207 – Software Design	Fall 2021, Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Fall 2024	Accessibility and Software Design
CSC209 – Low-level Programming Languages	Winter 2024, Fall 2024, Winter 2025	Harmless Wrongs and Hacking
CSC311 – Introduction to Machine Learning	Fall 2021, Fall 2022, Winter 2023, Fall 2023, Winter 2024, Summer 2024, Fall 2024, Winter 2025	Manipulation and Recommender Systems
CSC316 – Data Visualization	Winter 2025	Manipulation in Visualizations
CSC343 – Database Management	Fall 2024	Data Rights
CSC373 – Algorithms	Fall 2021, Fall 2023	Values in Algorithmic Formulation
CSC401 – Natural Language Processing	Winter 2024	Ethics of Anthropomorphization in Natural Language Processing
CSC420 – Introduction to Image Understanding	Fall 2022, Winter 2023, Fall 2022, Winter 2024	Bias and Discrimination in Image Understanding Algorithms
CSC404 – Video Game Design	Winter 2023, Winter 2024	Addiction in Video Game Design
JSC270 – Data Science I	Winter 2023, Winter 2024	Manipulation in Visualizations
EEB323 – Molecular Population Genetics	Fall 2023	Ethics of Molecular Genetic Research in Humans
GGR376 - Geovisualization	Fall 2023, Fall 2024	Manipulation in Geovisualizations
ACT390 – Professional Experience in Actuarial Science	Fall 2023, Fall 2024	Distributive Justice for Actuarial Scientists
STA130 – Introduction to Statistics	Fall 2023, Winter 2024, Fall 2024, Winter 2025	Bias and Discrimination in Classification Algorithms
STA302 – Methods of Data Analysis I	Fall 2023, Fall 2024	Professional Duties in Statistics
STA304 – Survey Design	Fall 2023, Winter 2025	Ethics of Human Research in Statistics

STA490 – Professional Development for Statisticians	Winter 2025	Professional Ethics for Statisticians
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Undergraduate Supervision

1. Socrates Project at UTSC, Franco Cardone, winter 2025 (political violence)
2. Directed reading (PHL495), Olivia Sun, winter 2024 (self-defense and civil disobedience)
3. Directed reading (PHL495), Reece Young, fall 2023 (environmental ethics and extended mind hypothesis)