

DAVID BOONIN

Professor of Philosophy
University of Colorado Boulder
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January 2026

EDUCATION

University of Pittsburgh (1987-92)
Ph.D. in Philosophy, 1992
Dissertation: "Thomas Hobbes and the Science of Moral Virtue"
Yale University (1982-86)
B.A. *summa cum laude* in philosophy and history, 1986
Senior Essay: "Hume and the Debate on Miracles"

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Applied Ethics, Ethics, History of Ethics

POSITIONS HELD

University of Colorado Boulder, Professor (Fall 2008-present)
University of Colorado Boulder, Associate Professor (Fall 2002-Spring 2008)
University of Colorado Boulder, Assistant Professor (Fall 1998-Spring 2002)
Tulane University, Assistant Professor (Fall 1994-Spring 1998)
Georgetown University, Visiting Assistant Professor (Fall 1992-Spring 1994)

BOOKS

Sexual Ethics and Problematic Consent (Oxford University Press, 2024)

Dead Wrong: The Ethics of Posthumous Harm (Oxford University Press, 2019)

Beyond Roe: Why Abortion Should be Legal Even if the Fetus is a Person (Oxford University Press, 2019)

The Non-Identity Problem and the Ethics of Future People (Oxford University Press, 2014)

Should Race Matter? Unusual Answers to the Usual Questions (Cambridge University Press, 2011)

The Problem of Punishment (Cambridge University Press, 2008)

A Defense of Abortion (Cambridge University Press, 2003)

Thomas Hobbes and the Science of Moral Virtue (Cambridge University Press, 1994)

BOOKS IN PROGRESS

Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and the State: Two Cheers for Our New Robot Overlords
(revised version of manuscript currently under review at Oxford University Press)

I Don't Buy That: A Skeptical Guide to Consumer Ethics
(complete first draft available)

EDITED VOLUMES

The Palgrave Handbook of Sexual Ethics (2022)

The Palgrave Handbook of Philosophy and Public Policy (2018)

What's Wrong?: Applied Ethicists and Their Critics, co-authored and co-edited with Graham Oddie (Oxford University Press, 2004; second edition 2009)

PAPERS IN EDITED VOLUMES

"A Puzzle About Abortion and Prenatal Injury." In *The Routledge Handbook on the Ethics of Abortion* (forthcoming)

"Parfit and the Non-Identity Problem." In *The Oxford Handbook of Intergenerational Ethics* (Oxford University Press, 2025)

"Freedom and the (Posthumous) Harm Principle." In *The Oxford Handbook of Freedom* (Oxford University Press, 2018)

"Punishment, Incarceration, and Restitution." In *Rethinking Punishment in the Era of Mass Incarceration*, pp. 122-43 (Routledge, 2018)

JOURNAL ARTICLES

"Solving the Non-Identity Problem: A Reply to Gardner, Kumar, Malek, Mulgan, Roberts and Wasserman," *Law, Economics, and Philosophy*, vol. 7 (2020)

"Reductio ad Absurdum Objections and the Dis-Integration Argument against Merely Instrumental Sex," *Journal of Social Philosophy*, vol. 44, no. 3 (2013), pp. 233-49.

"Ayn Rand and the Problem of Punishment," *Reason Papers* vol. 35, no. 1 (2013), pp. 58-67.

"Better to Be," *South African Journal of Philosophy*, vol. 31, no. 1 (2012), pp. 10-25.

"How to Solve the Non-Identity Problem," *Public Affairs Quarterly*, vol. 22, no. 2 (April 2008), pp. 127-57.

"Robbing PETA to Spay Paul: Do Animal Rights Include Reproductive Rights?" *Between the Species*, August 2003.

“How to Argue Against Active Euthanasia,” *Journal of Applied Philosophy*, vol. 17, No. 2, (2000), pp. 157-68.

“Same-Sex Marriage and the Argument from Public Disagreement,” *Journal of Social Philosophy* (Fall 1999), pp. 251-59.

“Death Comes for the Violinist: On Two Objections to Thomson’s Defense of Abortion,” *Social Theory and Practice*, vol. 23, no. 3 (Fall 1997), pp. 329-64.

“Against the Golden Rule Argument Against Abortion,” *Journal of Applied Philosophy* vol. 14, no. 2 (1997), pp. 187-97.

“A Defense of 'A Defense of Abortion': On the Responsibility Objection to Thomson’s Argument,” *Ethics*, vol. 107, no. 2 (January 1997), pp. 286-313. (a version of this paper is reprinted in Louis P. Pojman and Francis J. Beckwith, eds., *The Abortion Controversy: 25 Years After Roe v. Wade*, Wadsworth 1998).

“Don’t Stop Thinking About Tomorrow: Two Paradoxes About Duties to Future Generations,” *Philosophy and Public Affairs* vol. 25, no. 4 (Fall 1996), pp. 267-307.

“Contractarianism Gone Wild: Carruthers and the Moral Status of Animals,” *Between the Species*, vol. 10, nos. 1-2 (Winter/Spring 1994), pp. 39-48. (a slightly expanded version of this paper appears in Italian as “Il contrattualismo selvaggio. Carruthers e lo status morale degli animali,” *Etica & Animali*, vol. VI, nos. 1-2 (Primavera/Autunno 1993), pp. 34-43)

“Reply to Robinson,” *Between the Species*, vol. 10, nos. 1-2 (1994), pp. 52-4.

“Parsimony Made Simple: Rosenfeld and Harrison on Animal Pain,” *Between the Species*, vol. 9, no. 3 (Summer 1993), pp. 137-40.

“A Sheep in Wolf’s Clothing,” *The Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, vol. 74, no. 3 (September 1993), pp. 175-95.

“The Vegetarian Savage: Rousseau’s Critique of Meat Eating,” *Environmental Ethics*, vol. 15, no. 1 (Spring 1993), pp. 75-84.

BOOK REVIEWS

David Schmidtz, *Person, Polis, Planet: Essays in Applied Philosophy*. In *Ethics* vol. 119, No. 2 (January 2009), pp. 382-386.

Rosamund Scott, *Rights, Duties and the Body: Law and Ethics of the Maternal-Fetal Conflict*. In *The Philosophical Review*, vol 113, no. 4 (October, 2004), pp. 582-4.

Kathryn Paxton George, *Animal, Vegetable, or Woman?: A Feminist Critique of Ethical Vegetarianism*. In *Environmental Ethics* (2002): 429-32.

Jeffrey Reiman, *Abortion and the Ways We Value Human Life*. In *Social Theory and Practice*, vol. 26, no. 2 (Summer 2000), pp. 347-52.

Matthew H. Kramer, *Hobbes and the Paradoxes of Political Origins* and *John Locke and the origins of private property*. In *The Philosophical Review*, vol. 108, no. 1 (January 1999), pp. 146-51.

Mary Anne Warren, *Moral Status*. In *Bioethics*, vol. 13, no. 1 (January 1999), pp. 81-4.

Tom Sorell, ed., *The Cambridge Companion to Hobbes*. In *The Philosophical Review*, vol. 107, no. 3 (July 1998), pp. 491-94.

Noel Malcolm, ed., *The Correspondence of Thomas Hobbes*. In *The European Legacy*, vol. 1, no. 8 (1996).

KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

“Artificial Intelligence, Criminal Justice, and Risk Assessment: The Right to An Explanation Objection to Opaque Recidivism Prediction Algorithms.” Midsouth Philosophy Conference, Rhodes College, to be delivered in March 2026

“The Overcriminalization of Abortion in the United States,” Conference on “Overcriminalization and Indigent Legal Care,” Georgia State University, April 2017

“Posthumous Harm,” PANTC Conference, SUNY Buffalo, July 2016

OTHER INVITED TALKS (select)

The Lockwood Memorial Lecture, University of Oxford, to be delivered in June 2026

Parfit and non-identity problem APA Eastern Jan 2018

The Crom Visiting Philosopher Lecture, Beloit College, September 2018

The Florsheim Lecture in Ethics, Texas Christian University, March 2018

“Posthumous Harm” SUNY Binghamton, October 2016

“Why Blackmail Should Be Legal,” University of Alaska, September 2016

“The Experience Machine: Debunking the Debunking Arguments,” University of Iceland, August 2015 (also given in previous two years at Arizona State University and University of Wyoming)

“Posthumous Harm and the Problem of Future-Oriented Desires,” Canadian Philosophical Association National Meeting, June 2013, University of Victoria

“Posthumous Harm,” November 2012, Scripps College

“Two Cheers for Affirmative Action,” November 2012, Pitzer College

“Better to Be,” November 2011, Anti-Natalism Conference, University of Johannesburg, South Africa

“Why Blackmail Should Be Legal,” November 2011, University of Cape Town, South Africa

“Famine, Affluence and Mortality,” December 2010, University of Haifa, Israel

“Harm-Based Solutions to the Non-Identity Problem,” December 2010, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel

“Punishing the Innocent,” October 29, 2007, Arizona State Law School

“Two Cheers for Affirmative Action,” October 26, 2007, University of Arizona

"Punishment and Consent," April 26, 2006, University of Otago, NZ

"Punishment and Rights," March 7, 2006, University of Canterbury, NZ (Erskine Lecture)

"Famine, Affluence, and Mortality," Feb. 28, 2006, University of Canterbury, NZ (Erskine Lecture)

"How to Solve the Non-Identity Problem," Feb. 21, 2006, University of Canterbury, NZ (Erskine Lecture)

"How to Solve the Non-Identity Problem," Dec. 2, 2005, Yale University

"How to Solve the Non-Identity Problem," Sept. 16, 2005, University of Calgary

"How to Solve the Non-Identity Problem," Sept. 15, 2005, University of Alberta

"How to Solve the Non-Identity Problem," Nov. 12, 2004, Oberlin College (Rhoden Memorial Lecture)

"An Argument Against Decriminalizing Active Euthanasia," invited paper delivered at meeting of the Society for Bioethics and Classical Philosophy, New Orleans, May, 1999.

PUBLIC DEBATES (on abortion, versus leading pro-life speakers)

v. Trent Horn, April 2017, Stanford University

v. Patrick Lee, February 2010, Pomona College

v. Peter Kreeft, April 2010, University of Minnesota

v. Peter Kreeft, January 2008, University of Colorado

v. Peter Kreeft, December 2005, Yale University

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

American Philosophical Association

2004 APA Book Prize Honorable Mention (*A Defense of Abortion*)

University of Colorado Boulder

CHA Faculty Fellowship, taken Spring 2024

College Scholar Award, taken Spring 2017

Kayden Book Prize, Spring 2008 (*The Problem of Punishment*)

Provost Faculty Achievement Award, Fall 2007 (*A Defense of Abortion*)

IECE Course Development Grant, Fall 2007

Eaton Faculty Award, Spring 2007

University of Canterbury (New Zealand)

Erskine Fellowship, Spring 2006

Government Fellowships

National Endowment for the Humanities Research Stipend, Summer 2001

Department of Energy Course Development Grant, Summer 1996

National Endowment for the Humanities Younger Scholars Research Fellowship,
Summer 1985

Tulane University

Newcomb Collaborative Research Fellowship, Summer 1997

Lilly Teaching and Course Development Fellowship, 1996-97

Council on Research Grant, Summer 1995

University of Pittsburgh

University Mellon Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, 1987-88

University Teaching Fellowships, 1988-90, 1991-92

Philosophy Department Essay Prize, 1989

Yale University

Visiting Teaching Fellowship, Fall 1990

Distinction in philosophy, 1986

Distinction in history, 1986

Thacher Memorial Prize for Debate, 1986

Phi Beta Kappa (early election), 1985

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE (highlights)

Editor, *Public Affairs Quarterly* (2018-20)

Member, Editorial Board, *Journal of Applied Philosophy*
Past Member, Editorial Board, for *History of Philosophy Quarterly*

COLLEGE SERVICE (highlights)

Associate Dean for Arts and Humanities (2010-15)
Chair, Department of Philosophy (2006-10, 2015-16, 2020-23)
Director, Center for Values and Social Policy (2016-2020)
President, CU Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa (2014-present)

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Director, Colorado High School Ethics Bowl (2016-present)

PAST COMMUNITY SERVICE (highlights, each for a few years or more)

Director of Adult Education at Congregation Har HaShem
Member of Restorative Justice Panel via Boulder County Sheriff's Office
Certified provider of foster respite care