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DANIEL JACOBSON

Bruce D. Benson Professor of Philosophy, University of Colorado Boulder

October 2026

EDUCATION

University of Michigan (Ph.D., 1994)

Yale University (B.A., 1984). *Magna cum laude*, with distinction in Mathematics and Philosophy

RESEARCH AREAS

Ethics, Moral Psychology, J. S. Mill, Aesthetics, Political Philosophy

BOOKS

Rational Sentimentalism (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2023). Coauthored with Justin D'Arms.

Mill's Reconciliation of Liberty and Utility, in progress.

EDITED VOLUME

Moral Psychology and Human Agency: Philosophical Essays on the Science of Ethics (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014). Co-edited with Justin D'Arms.

PAPERS

1. "Expressivism, Morality, and the Emotions," *Ethics* 104 (1994): 739-63. Coauthored with Justin D'Arms.

2. "Freedom of Speech Acts? A Response to Langton," *Philosophy & Public Affairs* 24 (1995): 64-79.

3. "Sir Philip Sidney's Dilemma: On the Ethical Function of Narrative Art," *The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism* 54 (1996): 327-36. Reprinted in *Literature Criticism from 1400 to 1800*, ed. James P. Draper (Chicago: Cengage, 2011). Translated into French and reprinted in *Art et éthique: Perspectives anglo-saxonnes*, ed. and trans. Carole Talon-Hugon (Paris: Quadrige, 2011). Awarded 1995 John Fisher Memorial Prize, American Society for Aesthetics.

4. "In Praise of Immoral Art," *Philosophical Topics* 25 (1997: 155-99), ed. David Hills. Translated into Serbian and reprinted in *Etica Kritika Umetnosti*, ed. and trans. Aleksandra Kostic and Goran Bojovic (Beograd: Fedon, 2012). Translated into Japanese and reprinted in *Bunseki Bigaku Kihon Ronbunshu* (Essays on Analytic Aesthetics), trans. Ryu Murakami, ed. Kiyokazu Nishimura (Tokyo: Keiso Shobo, 2014).

5. "The Moralistic Fallacy: On the 'Appropriateness' of Emotions," *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 61 (2000): 65-90. Coauthored with Justin D'Arms.

6. "Sentiment and Value," *Ethics* 110 (2000): 722-48. Coauthored with Justin D'Arms.

7. "Mill on Liberty, Speech, and the Free Society," *Philosophy & Public Affairs* 29 (2000): 276-309.

8. "Speech and Action: Replies to Hornsby and Langton," *Legal Theory* 7 (2001): 179-201.

9. "An Unsolved Problem for Slote's Agent-Based Virtue Ethics," *Philosophical Studies* 111 (2002): 53-67.

10. "The Significance of Recalcitrant Emotions (or, Anti-Quasijudgmentalism)," *Philosophy* 52 (2003): 127-45. Reprinted in *Philosophy and the Emotions*, ed. Anthony Hatzimoysis (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003). Coauthored with Justin D'Arms.

11. "J. S. Mill and the Diversity of Utilitarianism," *Philosophers' Imprint* 3 (2003). <http://www.philosophersimprint.org/003002/>

12. "The Academic Betrayal of Free Speech," *Social Philosophy & Policy* 21 (2004): 48-80. Reprinted in *Freedom of Speech*, eds. Ellen Frankel Paul, Jeffrey Paul, and Fred D. Miller, Jr. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004).

13. "Ethical Criticism and the Vice of Moderation," in *Contemporary Debates in Aesthetics and the Philosophy of Art*, ed. Matthew Kieran (London: Blackwell, 2005).

14. "Seeing by Feeling: Virtues, Skills, and Moral Perception," *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* 8 (2005): 387-409. Reprinted in *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, Virtual Issue 1: "Virtues, Skills, and Moral Expertise." <http://www.springer.com/social+sciences/applied+ethics/journal/10677>

15. "Sensibility Theory and Projectivism," in *The Oxford Handbook of Ethical Theory*, ed. David Copp (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006). Coauthored with Justin D'Arms.

16. "Anthropocentric Constraints on Human Value," *Oxford Studies in Metaethics* 1 (2006): 99-126. Coauthored with Justin D'Arms.

17. "Why Freedom of Speech Includes Hate Speech," in *New Waves in Applied Ethics*, eds. Jesper Ryberg, Thomas Petersen, and Clark Wolf (Palgrave Macmillan, 2007).

18. "Does Social Intuitionism Flatter Morality or Challenge It?" in *Moral Psychology Vol. 2: The Cognitive Science of Morality: Intuition and Diversity*, ed. Walter Sinnott-Armstrong (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2008).

19. "Utilitarianism Without Consequentialism: The Case of John Stuart Mill," *The Philosophical Review* 117 (2008): 159-191. Chosen by *The Philosopher's Annual* (2009) as one of the ten best articles published in philosophy in 2008.

20. "Regret and Irrational Action," in *Reasons for Action*, eds. David Sobel and Steven Wall (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009). Coauthored with Justin D'Arms.

21. Demystifying Sensibilities: Sentimental Values and the Instability of Affect," in *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Emotion*, ed. Peter Goldie (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010). Coauthored with Justin D'Arms.

22. "Moral Dumbfounding and Moral Stupefaction," *Oxford Studies in Normative Ethics* 2 (2012): 289-315.

23. "Regret, Agency, and Error," *Oxford Studies in Agency and Responsibility* 1 (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013).

24. "Wrong Kinds of Reason and the Opacity of Normative Force," in *Oxford Studies in Metaethics* 9 (2014): 215-244. Coauthored with Justin D'Arms.

25. "Sentimentalism and Scientism," in *Moral Psychology and Human Agency*, eds. Justin D'Arms and Daniel Jacobson (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014). Coauthored with Justin D'Arms.

26. "Mill on Freedom of Speech," in *A Companion to Mill*, eds. Christopher Macleod and Dale Miller (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2017).

27. "Whither Sentimentalism? On Fear, the Fearsome, and the Dangerous," in *Ethical Sentimentalism*, eds. Remy Debes and Karsten Stueber (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017). Coauthored with Justin D'Arms.

28. "A Defense of Mill's Argument for the 'Practical Inseparability' of the Liberties of Conscience (and the Absolutism it Entails)," *Social Philosophy & Policy* 37 (2020): 9-30.

29. "The Motivational Theory of Guilt (and its Implications for Responsibility)," in *Self-Blame and Responsibility*, ed. Andreas Carlsson (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021). Coauthored with Justin D'Arms.

30. "Immoralism and Contextualism," in *The Oxford Handbook of Ethics and Art*, ed. James Harold (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2023).

31. "Précis: *Rational Sentimentalism*" and "Replies to Berker, Na'aman, and Yao." Book symposium on *Rational Sentimentalism*. *Philosophical Studies* 182 (2025). Coauthored with Justin D'Arms.

32. "A Defense of Affirmative Action for Conservatives," forthcoming in *Philosophy & Public Affairs*.

33. "Virtue and Fittingness," in progress. Coauthored with Justin D'Arms.

34. "Toward a Motivational Theory of Emotion," in progress.

REVIEWS, ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES, AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

1. "Philip Sidney," in *Encyclopedia of Aesthetics*, ed. Michael Kelly (New York: Oxford University Press, 1998). Updated and reprinted in *Encyclopedia of Aesthetics*, 2nd ed., 2013.

2. Review of Colin McGinn, *Ethics, Evil, and Fiction*. *The Philosophical Quarterly* 49 (1999).

3. Review of Robert Hinde, *Why Good is Good: the Sources of Morality*. *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (2002) <http://ndpr.nd.edu/news/23122-why-good-is-good-the-sources-of-morality/>

4. Review of Henry West, ed. *The Blackwell Guide to Mill's Utilitarianism*. *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (2006). <http://ndpr.nd.edu/news/25072-the-blackwell-guide-to-mill-s-utilitarianism/>

5. Review of Berys Gaut, *Art, Emotion and Ethics*. *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (2008) <http://ndpr.nd.edu/news/23394-art-emotion-and-ethics/>

6. "Sentimentalism," in *Oxford Companion to the Affective Sciences*, eds. David Sander and Klaus Scherer (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009).

7. "Wrong Kind of Reasons Problem," *The International Encyclopedia of Ethics*, ed. Hugh LaFollette (Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2013).

8. Featured Philosophers (with Justin D'Arms), PEA Soup blog (2014). <http://peasoup.typepad.com/peasoup/2014/02/featured-philosophers-darms-and-jacobson.html>.

9. "Science Cannot Teach Us to be Good," in *Why Be Good?*," *Slate*/John Templeton Foundation Big Ideas Program. <http://www.slate.com/bigideas/why-be-good/essays-and-opinions/daniel-jacobson-opinion>.

10. Review of David Brink, *Mill's Progressive Principles*, *Ethics* 126 (2015).

11. Critical précis of Joshua Gert, "A Fitting End to the Wrong Kind of Reason Problem," *Ethics* / PEA Soup collaboration. Co-authored with Justin D'Arms. <http://peasoup.typepad.com/peasoup/2016/07/ethics-discussion-at-pea-soup-joshua-gerts-a-fitting-end-to-the-wrong-kind-of-reason-problem-with-a-.html>.

12. "Freedom of Speech under Assault on Campus," *Cato Institute Policy Analysis #796* (Aug 30, 2016).

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Visiting Fellow, Center for the Philosophical Study of Freedom, University of Arizona (2027).

Institute for Humane Studies Grant (2018): *Reconstructing John Stuart Mill*

Michigan Humanities Award (2017–18): *Reconstructing John Stuart Mill*

Faculty Fellowship (2016–17), Center for Ethics and Public Affairs, Murphy Institute, Tulane University.

Grants for *The Freedom and Flourishing Project* (2015–ongoing) funding a Postdoctoral Fellow in Classical Liberalism, speaker series, and various research programs.

Grant for three-year collaborative project (2011–14): *The Science of Ethics*, from The John Templeton Foundation. Grant amount $850,000. Total project budget: $1,200,000.

"Utilitarianism Without Consequentialism" chosen by *The Philosopher's Annual* (2009) as one of the ten best articles in philosophy in 2008.

NEH Collaborative Research Grant (2004–05). Co-directed with Justin D'Arms.

Laurance S. Rockefeller Visiting Fellowship, The University Center for Human Values, Princeton University (2004–05).

American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship (1999–2000).

NEH Summer Seminar Grant (1997). "Rationality and the Emotions," Simon Blackburn, director (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill).

1995 John Fisher Memorial Prize for best essay in aesthetics by a junior scholar, American Society for Aesthetics.

Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship, University of Michigan (1991-92).

Charlotte W. Newcombe Dissertation Fellowship, Mellon Foundation (1990–91).

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY

DIRECTOR, BENSON CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION (2020–25)
University of Colorado Boulder

FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR, *THE FREEDOM AND FLOURISHING PROJECT* (2017–20)

The missions of the Project are to study the history, philosophy, and empirical support for classical liberalism, understood as the thesis that political and economic freedom are conducive to human flourishing; and to increase intellectual and political diversity in philosophy. Administrative responsibilities involve fundraising, hiring and mentoring a Postdoctoral Fellow in Classical Liberalism, planning and organizing an annual speaker series, and engaging with heterodox scholars across disciplinary and institutional lines.

ORGANIZER, WORKSHOP IN HETERODOX MORAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY (2017–)

This annual workshop features work by primarily junior philosophers that runs contrary to prevailing academic orthodoxy. Their work in progress is given constructive criticism by a group including eminent senior philosophers who serve as mentors. The workshop aims to increase intellectual and political diversity in the profession. We have held seven workshops at the University of Michigan and University of Colorado.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Philosophy & Public Affairs, Wiley

Social Philosophy and Policy, Cambridge University Press

Oxford Studies in Political Philosophy, Oxford University Press

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

Academic Freedom Alliance

Heterodox Academy

OCCASIONAL REFEREE

American Journal of Political Science, *American Philosophical Quarterly*, *American Political Science Review*, *Analysis*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, Blackwell Publishers, *British Journal of Aesthetics*, British Society for Ethical Theory, Cambridge University Press, *Canadian Journal*

of Philosophy, *Dialectica*, *Erkenntis*, *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, *Emotion*, *Ethics*, *Hume Studies*, *Inquiry*, The John Templeton Foundation, *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*, *Journal of Applied Philosophy, Journal of Ethics*, *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*, *Journal of the History of Philosophy*, *Journal of Moral Philosophy*, *Journal of Philosophy, Journal of Value Inquiry*, *Judgment and Decision Making*, Kluwer, *Law, Ethics and Philosophy*, *Mind*, *Noûs*, *Oxford Studies in Political Philosophy*, Oxford University Press, *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, *Philosophers' Imprint*, *Philosophia*, *Philosophical Papers, Philosophical Psychology*, *The Philosophical Quarterly*, *The Philosophical Review*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Public Affairs Quarterly*, *Res Publica*, Routledge, Social Sciences and Humanities Council of Canada, *Social Theory and Practice*, Yale University Press.

SELECTED RECENT LECTURES

2026

Hamilton Center, University of Florida. "Mill's Reconciliation of Liberty and Utility" (forthcoming)

St. Norbert College, Cassandra Voss Center Peace Meal lecture. "What Free Speech Is and Is Not."

2025

Kendrick Center for an Ethical Economy, John Chambers College of Business and Economics, West Virginia University.

Center for the Philosophy of Freedom, University of Arizona, *Conference on Academic Freedom*: "A Defense of Affirmative Action for Conservatives"

2024

APA Central Division, Authors Meet Critics Session: *Rational Sentimentalism*, by Justin D'Arms and Daniel Jacobson

OSU/Maribor/Rijeka Philosophy Conference, Dubronik Croatia: *Emotions and Value*.
"Toward A Motivational Theory of Emotion" (with Justin D'Arms).
"A Sentimentalist Theory of Humor" (with David Shoemaker)

2023

Cornell University Philosophy Colloquium: "Mill Does Not Have a Harm Principle"

2022

APA Central Division, Author Meets Critics Session: *A Wild West of the Mind*, by George Sher

New Orleans Workshop on Agency and Responsibility: "Emotion Versus Reason: How the Emotions Complicate and Compromise Human Agency" (with Justin D'Arms)

University of South Carolina Colloquium Series on Free Speech and Open Inquiry in the University: "J. S. Mill on Compelled Speech, Academia, and Cancel Culture"

2021

Stanford Graduate School of Business, Classical Liberalism Seminar: "Mill Does Not Have a Harm Principle (and Why it Matters for Liberalism)"

2020

Keynote Speaker, Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, University of Colorado, Boulder: "Mill Does Not Have a Harm Principle"

2019

The Manuel Johnson Center for Political Economy, Troy University. "Lessons from John Stuart Mill on Freedom of Speech in America"

Centre for the Study of Mind in Nature, University of Oslo. Workshop: *Self-Blame and Moral Responsibility*. "The Motivational Theory of Guilt (and Responsibility)"

Center for the Philosophy of Freedom, University of Arizona. Current Research Workshop: *Rational Sentimentalism* (with Justin D'Arms). Commentators on manuscript: Shaun Nichols (Arizona), Connie Rosati (Arizona), Sarah Stroud (North Carolina), Kieran Setiya (M.I.T.).

2018

Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society Conference. "Intellectual Diversity and Cognitive Bias: A Millian Approach."

2017

PPE Society Conference. "Was Mill a Classical Liberal or a Proto-Progressive?"

Amherst College. Forry and Micken Lecture Series on Speech and Harm: "Freedom of Speech Under Assault on Campus"

2016

University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Department of Philosophy colloquium. "Whither Sentimentalism?"

Washington University in St. Louis, Department of Philosophy. "Whither Sentimentalism?"

2015

European Philosophical Society for the Study of Emotions. University of Edinburgh. Plenary Symposium: *Appropriateness of Emotions* (with Justin D'Arms)

Chapel Hill Philosophy, Politics and Economics Workshop. Parr Center for Ethics, University of North Carolina. "Freedom of Speech in Mill"

TU-Delft, Netherlands. Department of Philosophy: *Ethics & Aesthetics*. "Sentimentalism and the Sentimental Values in Ethics and Aesthetics."

2014

American Philosophical Association, Central Division. Symposium: *Fitting Emotions* (with Justin D'Arms)

Georgetown University Philosophy Conference: *Emotions and Emotionality*. Keynote speaker (with Justin D'Arms). "Emotional Fittingness without Cognitivism"

Christ's College, Cambridge University, Workshop: *The Uses and Abuses of Biology*. "Uses and Abuses of the Science of Ethics"

New York University, Workshop: *Naturalistic Approaches to Ethics and Meta-ethics* (with Justin D'Arms). "Emotional Fittingness without Cognitivism"

College of the Holy Cross, Conference: *Moral Sentimentalism and the Foundations of Morality* (with Justin D'Arms). "Fittingness for Sentimentalists"

2013

University of Leiden, Department of Philosophy. Workshop on *Rational Sentimentalism* (Commenters: Frank Hindriks, Antti Kaupenen, and Sabine Roeser)

TU-Delft, Netherlands. Department of Philosophy: *Emotion in Ethics and Politics*.

University of Texas, Department of Philosophy. "Sentimentalism and Scientism"

University of Texas, Dialogue on Free Speech: *Artistic Expression and Freedom of Speech*

2012

University of British Columbia, Department of Philosophy. "Sentimentalism and Scientism"

University of Miami, Department of Philosophy. "Moral Dumbfounding and Moral Stupefaction" and "Sentimentalism and Scientism"

Wisconsin Metaethics Workshop. "Wrong Kinds of Reason and the Opacity of Normative Force" (with Justin D'Arms)

2011

Arizona Workshop in Normative Ethics. "Moral Dumbfounding and Moral Stupefaction"

New Orleans Workshop on Agency and Responsibility. "Regret, Agency, and Error"

Syracuse University, Department of Philosophy. Lecture in honor of the retirement of Michael Stocker. "Moral Dumbfounding and Moral Stupefaction"

2010

Tulane University, Murphy Institute. "Moral Dumbfounding and Moral Stupefaction"

2009

University of Sydney: *Evolution, Emotions, and Metaethics*. "Wrong Kinds of Reason and the Opacity of Normative Force" (with Justin D'Arms)

Shalem Center, Jerusalem, Israel: *The Human Nature Tradition in Anglo-Scottish Philosophy*. "On Mill's Moral Psychology: Sympathy, Associationism, and the Plasticity of Human Nature"

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO, BOULDER
Bruce D. Benson Professor of Philosophy (2020–)
Director, Benson Center for the Study of Western Civilization (2020–25)

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Professor (2009–2020)
Visiting Associate Professor (Winter 2007)

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY
Associate Professor (2002–2009). Promoted to Professor, 2009

FRANKLIN & MARSHALL COLLEGE
Assistant Professor (1999–2002)

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY
Visiting Assistant Professor (Winter 1999)

TELLURIDE ASSOCIATION / UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Summer program for gifted high school students: "J. S. Mill: Ethics, Aesthetics, and Society." Co-taught with Stephen Darwall, University of Michigan, 1998.

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
Visiting Assistant Professor (Spring and Summer 1998)

COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON
Assistant Professor (1996–1998)

WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY
Visiting Assistant Professor (1995–96)

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
Visiting Assistant Professor (1994–95)

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER
Visiting Instructor (Winter 1994)

REFERENCES

Elizabeth Anderson, John Dewey Distinguished University Professor of Philosophy and Women's Studies, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, Max Shaye Professor of Public Philosophy, University of Michigan

Stephen Darwall, Andrew Downey Orrick Professor of Philosophy, Yale University

Geoffrey Sayre-McCord, Morehead-Cain Alumni Distinguished Professor, University of North Carolina

David Schmidtz, Presidential Chair of Moral Science, West Virginia University