

**Preston J. Werner**

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**Areas of Specialization**

Ethics, Philosophy of Mind

**Areas of Competence**

Epistemology, Political Philosophy, Metaphysics

**Employment**

Senior Lecturer (Tenure), Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
2016-Present

Visiting Scholar, Cornell University (NEH Summer Institute)  
Summer 2016

Teaching Assistant, Syracuse University  
2013-2016

Teaching Assistant, University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
2009-2013

Teaching Assistant, Cleveland State University  
2007-2009

**Education**

2016 Syracuse University, Ph.D. (Philosophy).  
Dissertation: *Seeing Right from Wrong*  
Advisor: David Sobel

2013 University of Nebraska-Lincoln, M.A. (Philosophy).  
Advisor: David Sobel

2009 Cleveland State University, M.A. (Philosophy).  
Advisor: Diane Steinberg

2007 University of Iowa, B.A.

## Grants

“Outsider Ethics and Political Thought: Practice and Theory”, Hebrew University Research and Development Starter Grant (\$5000), 2023.

“Moral Perception: How It Works and Why It Matters”, Israel Science Foundation (approx. \$83,000), 2017-2020.

## Publications

“[How Naive is Contentful Moral Perception](#)”, in *Philosophies*, 8(3), 2023.

“[Toward a Perceptual Solution to Epistemological Objections to Non-Naturalism](#)”, in *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*, 24(3), 2023.

“[Losing Grip on the Third Realm: Against Naive Realism for Intuitions](#)” (with Bar Luzon), in *Analysis*, (3):435-444, 2022.

“[Attentional Moral Perception](#)” (with Jonna Vance), in *Journal of Moral Philosophy*, 19(5):501-525, 2022.

“[Normative Concepts and the Return to Eden](#)”, in *Philosophical Studies*, 179 (7):2259-2283, 2022.

“[Moral Perception](#)”, in *Philosophy Compass*, 15(1), 2020.

“Teaching & Learning Guide for: Moral Perception”, in *Philosophy Compass*, 15(1), 2020.

“[Getting a Moral Thing into a Thought: Metasemantics for Non-Naturalists](#)”, in *Oxford Studies in Metaethics*, Vol 15, 2020.

“[Which Moral Properties are Eligible for Perceptual Awareness?](#)”, in *Journal of Moral Philosophy*, 17(3), 2020.

“[A Defense of Spoiler Voting](#)” co-authored with W. Scott Looney, in *Public Affairs Quarterly*, 34(3): 2020.

“[You Oughta Know: A Defence of Obligations to Learn](#)”, co-authored with Teresa Bruno-Niño, in *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, 97(4), 2019.

“[An epistemic argument for liberalism about perceptual content](#)”, in *Philosophical Psychology*, 32(1), 2018.

“[Why Conceptual Competence Won't Help the Non-Naturalist Epistemologist](#)”, in *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, 48(3-4):616-637. 2018.

“[Moral Perception Without \(Prior\) Moral Knowledge](#)”, in *Journal of Moral Philosophy*, 15(2):164-181. 2018.

[“A Posteriori Ethical Intuitionism and the Problem of Cognitive Penetrability”](#), in *European Journal of Philosophy*, 25(4):1791-1809. December 2017.

[“Moral Perception and the Contents of Experience”](#), in *Journal of Moral Philosophy*, 13(3):294-317. June 2016.

[“Character \(alone\) Doesn’t Count: Phenomenal Character and Narrow Intentional Content”](#), in *American Philosophical Quarterly*, 52(3):261-272. July 2015.

[“Self-ownership and non-culpable proviso violations”](#), in *Politics, Philosophy & Economics*, Vol.14(1):67-83. February 2015.

[“Seemings: still dispositions to believe”](#), in *Synthese*, Vol. 191(8):1761-1774. May 2014.

### **Book in Progress**

*Virtuous Perception, Vicious World: A Defense of Moral Empiricism*. (co-authored with Jonna Vance)

### **Presentations**

“Patient Moral Luck”  
Arizona Workshop in Normative Ethics, 2024

“Patient Moral Luck”  
Invited Colloquium, Uppsala University, 2023

“The Metaethical Presuppositions of Conceptual Engineering”  
20th Annual Madison Metaethics Workshop, University of Wisconsin, 2023.

“Teaching Anarchism”  
30th Annual APPE International Conference, 2021.

“Normative Concepts and the Return to Eden”  
What is Normativity? 3rd Annual Frankfurt Metaethics Conference, 2019

“Moral Perception: Empirical Prospects”  
Emotions and Perception in Moral Epistemology Conference, Hebrew University, 2019

“Toward a Perceptual Solution to Epistemic Objections to Non-Naturalism”  
Invited Colloquium, University of Cyprus, 2018

“High-Level Experience and Low-Level Experience: No Dependence”  
Invited Colloquium, University of Cyprus, 2018

“How to Get a Moral Thing Into a Thought: Metasemantics for Non-Naturalists”  
13th Annual Madison Metaethics Workshop, University of Wisconsin. 2018.

“High-Level Experience and Low-Level Experience: No Dependence”  
Mind and Brain Annual Conference, Center for Cognition and Neuroethics, 2018.

“Which Moral Properties are Eligible for Perceptual Awareness?”  
Invited Presentation, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. 2018.

“Which Moral Properties are Eligible for Perceptual Awareness?”  
HUJI-Van Leer Joint Conference: The Borders of Perception, 2018

“Voting as Signaling: A Defense of Spoiler Voting” (co-authored with W. Scott Looney)  
Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society for the Study of Practical Ethics, 2017

“Can We Be Criticized for Our Emotional Responses?”  
Seton Hall University, 2016

“A Defense of Obligations to Learn” (co-authored with Teresa Bruno)  
Joint Meeting of the South Carolina Society for Philosophy and North Carolina  
Philosophical Society, 2016

“Normative Asymmetry and Non-Naturalist Epistemology”  
Central European University Summer Seminar on Moral Epistemology, 2014

“Comments on ‘Utilitarianism, Intuitions, Rationality and Neuroscience’, by Rosalind  
Abdool & Patricia Marino”  
*American Philosophical Association*, 2014 Central Division Meeting

“Does Phenomenal Character Determine Intentional Content?”  
*American Philosophical Association*, 2013 Central Division Meeting  
Commentator: Esa Diaz-Leon

“Modal Semantics for Stage Theorists”  
2012 UT-Austin Graduate Conference in Philosophy  
Commentator: Casey Woolwine

“Nozick’s Tracking Theory and the Problem of Neural Malfunction”  
5<sup>th</sup> Annual University of Iowa Graduate Philosophical Society Conference  
Commentator: Kristopher Philips

## **Book Review**

“Explanation in Ethics and Mathematics, ed. Uri Leibowitz & Neil Sinclair”  
in *Ethics*, 2017.

## Conference and Project Organizing

*Virtual Metaethics Colloquia*. A biweekly colloquia series for metaethicists from four continents created during the Covid Pandemic. Founder and organizer, 2020-2021; co-organizer (with Aaron Elliott), 2021-2022

*Emotions and Perception in Moral Epistemology*. The 5th Annual Project, Centre for Moral and Political Philosophy. Project ran from 2018-2019; conference in June 2019.

*The Borders of Perception* (co-organizer with Elvira Di Bona) a Hebrew University/Van Leer Jerusalem Institute Collaboration. January 2018.

## Teaching Experience

### As Instructor

Epistemology of Perception (M.A. Course)  
Fall 2022

Ineffability (co-taught with Prof. Aaron Segal) (M.A. Course)  
Spring 2022

Epistemology and Irrelevant Influences (M.A. Course)  
Fall 2021

Anarchism in Political Philosophy (M.A. Course)  
Fall 2020

Mental Representation  
Spring 2020

Conceptual Engineering (M.A. Course)  
Fall 2019

Well-Being  
Spring 2019, Spring 2021

The Metaphysics of Normative Authority (M.A. course)  
Fall 2018

A Priori Knowledge  
Fall 2018

Moral Perception (M.A. Course)  
Spring 2018

Philosophy of Emotion  
Spring 2018, Fall 2019, Fall 2021

The Contents of Perceptual Experience (M.A. Course)  
Fall 2017

Philosophy of Language  
Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2019, Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Fall 2022

Individuals and Collective Actions (M.A. Course)  
Fall 2017

Philosophy of Perception  
Spring 2017, Spring 2020, Spring 2022, Fall 2022

Metaethics  
Fall 2016 (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), Fall 2020

Moral Epistemology  
Fall 2016-Spring 2017 (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), Spring 2021

Theories of Knowledge and Reality [Introductory Metaphysics and  
Epistemology]  
Summer 2015, Fall 2015, Spring 2016 (Syracuse University)

Introduction to Philosophy  
Summer 2012 (University of Nebraska)

Philosophy and Contemporary Issues [Introduction to Ethics]  
Summer 2011 (University of Nebraska)

Philosophy for 8<sup>th</sup> Graders (Co-Taught)  
Spring 2014 (Southside Academy Charter School, Syracuse, NY)

## **Awards**

Excellence in Teaching Award

2019 (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Certificate for completion of NEH Summer Institute on Presupposition and Perception:  
Reasoning, Ethics, Politics, and Aesthetics  
Summer 2016 (Cornell University)

Certificate in Moral Epistemology, Summer Seminar on Moral Epistemology  
Summer 2014 (Central European University)

Summer Research Grant  
Summer 2014 (Syracuse University)

Departmental Travel Grant  
Summer 2014 (Syracuse University)

Hinman Fellowship in Philosophy  
Spring 2013 (University of Nebraska)

Centennial Fellowship  
2009-2010 (University of Nebraska)

## Service and Public Philosophy

*MELLA* Committee (Supervises the finding of external reviewers for dissertations across the humanities, confirms acceptance at the College level)  
2023-Present

Organizer, Departmental Seminar Series, Hebrew University of Jerusalem  
2020-Present

“[Perceiving Morality with Preston Werner](#)”, *Examining Ethics Podcast*, Prindle Institute.

Mentor for the [Philosophers’ Cocoon Job-Market Mentoring Project](#) (run by Helen De Cruz & Marcus Arvan), 2018-2019

“[Al-Ghazâlî and the Dream Argument](#)”, a short blog post as part of the  
*The Campaign for Better Citation and Credit-Giving Practices in Philosophy*, October 2015

Referee, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, *Mind*, *Analysis*, *Erkenntnis*, *Philosophical Studies*, *Philosophical Papers*, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Journal of Moral Philosophy*, *Synthese*, *Madison Metaethics Workshop*

## Memberships

American Philosophical Association  
Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology  
Radical Philosophy Association

## **References**

David Sobel, Irwin and Marjorie Gutttag Professor, Syracuse University

Russ Shafer-Landau, Professor, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Hille Paakkunainen, Assistant Professor, Syracuse University

W. Ben Bradley, Allan and Anita Sutton Professor of Philosophy, Syracuse University