

# MICHAEL STARLING

University of Georgia, Department of Philosophy, 1A Peabody Hall, 30602  
email: [michael.starling25@uga.edu](mailto:michael.starling25@uga.edu) | phone: (404) 317-5073

updated 9/28/22

---

## Areas of Specialization:

Ancient Western Philosophy, Political Philosophy

## Areas of Competence:

History of Philosophy, Metaphysics, Pedagogical Theory

---

## EDUCATION

---

PhD University of Georgia, Department of Philosophy expected 2023

Dissertation: “The political function of Plato’s dialectical praxis”

Abstract: My dissertation examines the conflict between politics and philosophy in Plato’s writings. The first chapter draws from the intellectual culture of Greece in order to define a body politic as reliant on stable *nomoi* (customs) in order to pursue its goals. I argue that these *nomoi* are inherently fragile, and as a result the body politic which arises from them cannot abide investigation into their status. In the second chapter, I argue that the Platonic conception of philosophy is rooted in the psychological faculty of *eros* (desire), rendering philosophy as a compulsive inquiry towards truth, the ideal form of which is dialectic. In the third chapter, I explicate the tension that results between philosophy’s need to investigate common *doxai* (opinions), including *nomoi*, and the fragility of the *nomoi*. In the fourth chapter, I explore the apparent contradiction between dialectic’s use of *nomoi* to solicit participation from an interlocutor and the critical examination of said *nomoi*. In the fifth chapter, I reconcile this paradox by arguing for philosophy’s civic function, evidenced by Plato’s appropriation of language of the civic practice of *theoria* to describe philosophical activity and signaled by his use of dramatic frames that situate the dialogues in a rich sociopolitical context.

Committee: Drs. Rohan Sikri (chair), Elizabeth Brient, & René Jagnow

MA Tulane University, Philosophy May 2014

BA Tulane University, Philosophy & Religious Studies May 2013  
*cum Laude*

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

---

University of Georgia, Athens, GA

August 2017 to present

Courses taught as Instructor of Record

- PHIL 2010 Introduction to Philosophy (Fall '18, Spring '19, Fall '20, Fall '21)
- PHIL 2010e Introduction to Philosophy (Summer '19, Summer '20, Summer '21)
  - Online Course taught during summer semesters only
- PHIL 2020 Logic and Critical Thinking (Spring '20, Spring '21, Spring '22)
- PHIL 3000 History of Ancient Western Philosophy (Fall '19, Fall '22)

Courses taught as Teaching Assistant

- PHIL 2010 Introduction to Philosophy (Fall '17, Spring '18)

Common Good Atlanta, Atlanta, GA

Summer 2022

Common Good Atlanta, in partnership with Bard College, offers college credit through the Clemente Courses in the Humanities program to non-traditional and incarcerated students in the Greater Atlanta Area. Courses are taught by volunteer instructors from various institutions.

Courses taught as Instructor of Record

- Introduction to Philosophy (Summer '22)

Georgia Perimeter College, Atlanta, GA  
(now Perimeter College at Georgia State University)  
Adjunct Professor, Humanities Department

August 2014 to May 2015

Courses taught as Instructor of Record

- PHIL2010 Introduction to Philosophy (Fall '14)
- PHIL1010 Logic and Critical Thinking (Fall '14, Spring '15)

## **COURSES PREPARED TO TEACH**

---

- Philosophy of Film
- Philosophy of Horror
- Reason and Myth in Philosophy
- Ancient Eastern Philosophy
- Neoplatonism
- Metaphysics
- Modern Western Philosophy
- Medieval Western Philosophy
- Introduction to Ethics

## HONORS AND AWARDS

---

### [Joseph Bertram Gittler Fellowship](#)

Fall 2022-Spring 2023

“The Joseph Bertram Gittler Fellowship is a dissertation completion fellowship for philosophy graduate students who have been admitted to candidacy.”

### [Summer Doctoral Research Assistantship](#)

Summer 2022

This RA stipend of \$3500 is awarded by the Graduate School to PhD candidates working towards the completion of the dissertation.

### [Excellence in Teaching Award](#)

Spring 2022

The ETA is the top teaching award for Graduate Teaching Assistants at UGA, given to no more than 5 GTAs from across the university each year. Each department may only nominate one student each year, and the application process includes preparing a portfolio that shows excellence and innovation in teaching, including student evaluations and faculty endorsement.

### [Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award](#)

Spring 2021

“This award recognizes teaching assistants who demonstrate superior teaching skills while serving in the classroom or laboratory.”

### [Future Faculty Fellows Program](#)

Spring 2021- Fall 2021

Competitive Fellowship focused on professional development which includes a small stipend and recognition at the Graduate School Award Ceremony each spring. Only 15 participants are selected each year from a pool of applicants enrolled in PhD programs from across the university.

### [J.M. Green and R.K. Green Graduate Fellowship](#)

2020-2021

Fellowship grant of \$2000 for graduate students conducting research in the Arts and Humanities.

## PRESENTATIONS

---

(forthcoming) “Streaming Truth to Power: Responsive Assignment Design and Multimedia Resources” American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting, Denver, Spring 2023

(forthcoming) “Rehabilitating the Narrative Character of Classrooms” American Philosophical Association Eastern Division Meeting, Montreal, Spring 2023

Comments on “Excellent Beings: The Aesthetic Traits of a Good Life” presented by Alexandra Grundler at the American Society for Aesthetics Southern Aesthetics Workshop, Auburn University, October 15, 2021

“The Incongruence of Justice and Injustice in Thrasymachus’ Account” presented at the American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting, February 24, 2021.

“The Incongruence of Justice and Injustice in Thrasymachus’ Account” Midsouth Philosophy Conference Annual Meeting, March 2020 [conference cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic]

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

---

### Conference Aide and Session Chair, International Plato Society, Symposium XIII

Conducted hybrid sessions at the triennial, weeklong conference held in Athens, GA. Duties included: managing Zoom and A/V equipment for 1 of 4 concurrent sessions, conducting conference participants to evening social events, providing technical support to conference presenters, chairing sessions on behalf of absent participants, and miscellaneous administrative duties. 7/18/22-7/22/22

### TA Café Workshop Facilitator, Center for Teaching and Learning at UGA

These professional development workshops are specifically designed by and for Teaching Assistants of all disciplines to develop skills and strategies in their role as IORs or TAs.

- “Making Teaching Fun” 10/28/2021
- “Teaching Portfolio Peer Exchange” 4/28/21

### Philosophy Graduate Student Association, UGA

- Graduate Student Moderator, 2020-2021
  - Duties included: Attended faculty meetings, represented philosophy graduate student interests, and disseminated relevant meeting information to philosophy graduate students.
  - Activities of note: Solicited philosophy graduate student feedback and input on issues related to COVID-19 policies, petitioned faculty for funding extensions in light of COVID-19 impact on graduate student progress, presented PGSA course proposal for PHIL 3050: Unjustly Marginalized Philosophies at faculty meeting.
- President, 2019-2020
  - Duties included: presiding over monthly PGSA meetings, crafting agenda, organizing graduate student social events as well as community outreach initiatives and professional development workshops, organizing film screening and discussion events on campus open to students and community members, purchasing food and beverages for PGSA events.
  - Activities of note: Spearheaded and organized the “On Catastrophe” public film series for Fall 2019 and Spring 2020; assisted Graduate Coordinator with new Graduate Student Handbook and revision of PhD program requirements; regular meetings with incoming department head.
- Secretary, 2018-2019
- Treasurer, 2017-2018
  - Activities of note: assisted in drafting the proposal to create online courses for summer terms, including the development of course syllabi for PHIL2010e, PHIL2020e, PHIL2030e, PHIL2050e.

### Service to Department of Philosophy

“Incorporating SWANK Digital Campus assets into D2L/Brightspace courses” Zoom presentation to UGA philosophy department	11/20/20
“Preparing to Pivot: eLC Functionality and Tools” Zoom presentation to UGA philosophy department	3/19/20
<i>Hereditary</i> Film Screening and Discussion Organizer and discussion facilitator as part of “On Catastrophe” film series	10/17/19
“Overview of PHIL2010e Structure and Strategies” Presentation to graduate students in PHIL7010: Teaching Philosophy	9/23/19

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

---

#### [Certificate in Diversity and Inclusion](#) (in progress)

“The Certificate in Diversity and Inclusion (CDI) engages UGA faculty and staff in building capacity to contribute to and sustain a diverse and inclusive campus environment. The CDI is offered in partnership with the Human Resources Training and Development Department and other diversity-related office and programs across the institution.”

#### Future Faculty Fellows Program, 2021 Cohort

“[The Future Faculty Fellows Program](#) ... is a year-long professional development program that brings together 15 innovative and dedicated teaching assistants from across campus to talk about, reflect upon, and improve their teaching, while preparing them for the academic job market and the rigors of their first faculty positions.”

#### TA Cafés (as attendee)

These professional development workshops are specifically designed for Teaching Assistants of all disciplines to develop skills and strategies in their role as IORs or TAs.

Fostering Student Well-Being	9/23/2021
Writing Diversity Statements	10/4/ 2020

#### UGA Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy Departmental Training

(5/6/2021) Review of NDAH Policy facilitated by representatives of the Equal Opportunity Office at UGA for the Department of Philosophy.

#### Philosophizing with High School Students

(2/15/20) Workshop led by Thomas Wartenberg and co-sponsored by UGA’s Office of Service-Learning covering strategies for secondary school philosophy education.

#### Philosophizing with Young Children

(2/12/20) Workshop led by Thomas Wartenberg and co-sponsored by UGA’s Office of Service-Learning covering strategies for primary school philosophy education.

CTL's Spring Teaching Symposium, University of Georgia

Each spring, the Center for Teaching and Learning hosts a day of workshops for TAs from all departments to learn teaching strategies and skills, such as assignment development, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion training, and classroom management. Years attended: 2018, 2020

**GRADUATE COURSES TAKEN**

---

At University of Georgia

Graduate Courses:

- PHIL8600: Metaphysics (Instructor: Dr. Ed Halper)
- PHIL8010: Modern and Contemporary Philosophy (Instructor: Dr. O. Brad Bassler)
- PHIL8310: Philosophy of Mind (Instructor: Dr. Richard Dien Winfield)
- PHIL8010: Modern and Contemporary Philosophy (Instructor: Dr. Elizabeth Brient)
- PHIL8200: Ethics (Instructor: Dr. Melissa Fahmy)
- GREK8010: Readings in Greek Literature (Instructor: Dr. Charles Platter)
- PHIL8010: Modern and Contemporary Philosophy (Instructor: Dr. René Jagnow)
- PHIL8000: Ancient and Medieval Philosophy (audited) (Instructor: Dr. Brad Bassler)
- PHIL6510: Deductive Systems (Instructor: Dr. Yuri Balashov)
- PHIL6210: Social and Political Philosophy (Instructor: Dr. Thanassis Samaras)
- PHIL6010: Aristotle (Instructor: Dr. Thanassis Samaras)
- PHIL7010: Teaching Philosophy (Instructor: Various faculty)
- PHIL6000: Plato (Instructor: Dr. Thanassis Samaras)
- PHIL8800: Readings in Philosophy (Instructor: Dr. Ed Halper)

At Tulane University

- PHIL6932: Metaphilosophy (Instructor: Dr. Bruce Brower)
- PHIL6933: Topics in Aesthetics (Instructor: Dr. Alison Denham)
- PHIL6200: Plato (Instructor: Dr. Ronna Burger)
- PHIL6330: Nietzsche (Instructor: Dr. Richard Velkley)
- PHIL7200: 19<sup>th</sup> Century Philosophy (Instructor: Dr. Richard Velkley)
- PHIL6280: Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason* (Dr. Oliver Sensen)
- PHIL6210: Aristotle (Dr. Ronna Burger)
- PHIL7490: Topics in Moral and Political Philosophy (Dr. Richard Velkley)
- PHIL6920: Platonism and the *Odyssey* (independent study with Dr. Ronna Burger)
- PHIL6170: Philosophy of Perception (Dr. Bruce Brower)

**LANGUAGES**

---

Attic & Koine Greek: Research Proficiency

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

---

American Philosophical Association. Member, 2017 – Present  
American Society for Aesthetics, Member, 2021 – Present

## REFERENCES

---

**Dr. Rohan Sikri**, Assistant Professor  
Department of Philosophy  
University of Georgia  
107 Peabody Hall  
Athens, GA 30602-1627  
Email: [rsikri@uga.edu](mailto:rsikri@uga.edu)  
Chair of Dissertation Committee

**Dr. Elizabeth Brient**, Associate Professor  
Department of Philosophy  
University of Georgia  
107 Peabody Hall  
Athens, GA 30602-1627  
Email: [ebrient@uga.edu](mailto:ebrient@uga.edu)  
Dissertation Committee Member, Teaching Mentor

**Dr. René Jagnow**, Associate Professor  
Department of Philosophy  
University of Georgia  
107 Peabody Hall  
Athens, GA 30602-1627  
Email: [rjagnow@uga.edu](mailto:rjagnow@uga.edu)  
Dissertation Committee Member, Teaching Mentor

**Dr. O. Bradley Bassler**, Associate Professor Emeritus  
Department of Philosophy  
University of Georgia  
107 Peabody Hall  
Athens, GA 30602-1627  
Email: [bbassler@uga.edu](mailto:bbassler@uga.edu)  
Teaching Mentor

**Dr. Caroline Young**, Lecturer and Site Director for Common Good Atlanta  
Department of English  
University of Georgia  
254 Park Hall  
200 Baldwin Street  
Athens, GA 30602-6205  
Email: [cyoung@uga.edu](mailto:cyoung@uga.edu)  
Teaching Mentor at Common Good Atlanta