Mica R. Rapstine

Contact

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Philosophy Department
UNC Chapel Hill
240 East Cameron Ave.
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3125

Specializations: Ethics, Moral Psychology, Social Philosophy

Competencies: Political Philosophy, Cognitive Science, Epistemology

Employment

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill Philosophy — 2026-
Postdoctoral Research Associate
Educating for the Virtues of Attention Initiative Fellow

Education

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor: PhD in Philosophy — 2026
Dissertation: *Feeling, Valuing, and Living Morally*
Committee: Sarah Buss (co-chair), Peter Railton (co-chair), Brian Weatherson, Kent Berridge (Psychology)

Weinberg Institute for Cognitive Science: Certificate in Cognitive Science — 2025

University of Houston: MA in Philosophy — 2020

Yale University: MAR in Ethics — 2004

Trinity University, San Antonio: BA in Philosophy and Religion — 2001

Publications

'Political Rage and the Value of Valuing'
Philosophy 98 (4): 451-475. October 2023.
Royal Institute of Philosophy 2022 Essay Prize Runner-Up

'Regrettable Beliefs'
Philosophical Studies 178: 2169-2190. August 2021.

Awards

Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship Department Nominee, Michigan — 2025
Competitive university-wide, year-long fellowship awarded for in-progress dissertations that are 'unusually creative, ambitious, and impactful'

Wirt and Mary Cornwell Prize and Fellowship, Michigan — 2024
Competitive philosophy department year-long fellowship awarded for best essay demonstrating 'exceptional promise of original study and creative work'

John H. D'Arms Faculty Award Stipend, Michigan — 2024
Research assistantship in support of faculty award recipient, Sarah Buss

	Rackham Summer Research Fellowship, Michigan Merit-based summer research funding award	2024
	Royal Institute of Philosophy Essay Competition Runner-up Second to Michael Cholbi, selected from 134 submissions and published in *Philosophy*	2023
	Rackham Travel Grant (x2), Michigan	2021-24
	Rackham Research Fellowship (x3), Michigan	2020-23
	Competitive Cullen Fellowship Travel Grant (x2), Houston	2019-20
	Competitive Graduate Assistantship, Houston	2018-20

Presentations	'What (Good) is a Moral Epiphany?'	
	Eastern APA Meeting	Jan 2026
	'The Possibility of Moral Feeling'	
	Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress	Aug 2025
	'Is Moral Feeling Owed?'	
	University of Nebraska Lincoln Graduate Philosophy Conference	Mar 2025
	UMass Amherst Graduate Philosophy Conference	Dec 2024
	University of Michigan Ethics Discussion Group	Oct 2024
	'Moral Insight'	
	Eastern APA Panel on Moral Experience with Robert Audi and Sarah McGrath	Jan 2025
	University of Michigan Graduate Student Working Group	Nov 2024
	'Moral Epiphany and Insight in Problem Solving'	
	Expression, Communication, and the Origins of Meaning Research Group Graduate Conference	Feb 2025
	Weinberg Institute of Cognitive Science Interdisciplinary Seminar	Apr 2024
	'Putting Insight into Action'	
	Texas Tech University Graduate Philosophy Conference	Apr 2023
	Central APA Meeting	Feb 2023
	'Moral Anger and the Value of Valuing'	
	Northern Illinois University Graduate Philosophy Conference	Oct 2022
	'Regrettable Beliefs'	
	Pacific APA Meeting	Apr 2021
	'No One You Kill is a Stranger'	
	Central APA Meeting	Feb 2020
	Harvard-MIT Graduate Philosophy Conference	Feb 2019

Commentaries

'Aesthetic Costs of Being Medicated' — Oct 2024
Angela Sun (Washington & Lee)
Philadelphia Normative Philosophy Conference

'Internalist Perspectives on Moral Encroachment' — Jan 2024
Kellan Head (Syracuse)
Eastern APA Meeting

'Attention in Creative Thinking' — Nov 2022
Jocelyn Wang (MIT)
Michigan Mind and Moral Psychology Graduate Conference

Select Courses

Michigan

Moral Psychology and Political Economy of Equality	Elizabeth Anderson
Self and Others	Sarah Buss
Independent Study: Moral Education	Sarah Buss
Moral Psychology and the Psychology of Morality	Peter Railton
Dossier Reading Course: Intentions and Resolutions	Peter Railton
Ethical Analysis	Peter Railton
Vices	Brian Weatherson
Rational Choice	James Joyce
Intention	Sarah Moss
Affective Neuroscience	Kent Berridge
Concepts and Categories	Susan Gelman

Houston

Philosophy of Deep Learning	Cameron Buckner
Philosophy of the Special Sciences	Cameron Buckner
Moral Responsibility Skepticism	Justin Coates
Independent Study: Ethics of Blame	Justin Coates
Agent-Relative Reasons	David Phillips

Teaching

UNC Chapel Hill

Ethics Research Seminar	Lead Instructor	2026

Michigan

Introduction to Political Economy	Graduate Student Instructor	2026
Minds and Machines	Lead Graduate Student Instructor	2023
Introduction to Ethics	Graduate Student Instructor	2022
Introduction to Formal Methods	Graduate Student Instructor	2022
Issues in Bioethics	Graduate Student Instructor	2021

Houston

Introduction to Ethics (x5)	Teaching Assistant	2018-20

Service

Michigan Philosophy Teaching Mentor Mentored new instructors in the Michigan philosophy department; developed and delivered workshops aimed at improving undergraduate instruction in the department	2026
Michigan Philosophy Mind and Moral Psychology Workshop Organizer Co-organized year-long interdisciplinary workshop culminating in a public lecture by Antonia Peacocke (Stanford)	2024-25
Michigan Philosophy Spring Colloquium Organizer Co-organized multi-day colloquium on topics in metaphysics, with guest speakers Shamik Dasgupta (Berkeley), Dee Payton (Virginia), Gideon Rosen (Princeton), Erica Shumener (Syracuse), and Amie Thomasson (Dartmouth)	2024
Michigan Philosophy Graduate Representative to Philosophy Faculty Regularly participated in faculty meetings, communicating graduate perspectives on wide range of issues from curriculum changes to climate; Ran 'town hall' meetings dedicated to addressing graduate student concerns and assigning department service roles	2023-24
Michigan Philosophy Undergraduate Outreach Coordinator Developed programing to increase undergraduate engagement, including a philosophy movie night and a graduate student guest series for philosophy club meetings	2021-22
Michigan Philosophy Ethics Discussion Group Organizer Co-organized meetings for long-standing ethics discussion and working group attended by graduates and faculty	2021-22
Michigan-MIT Social Philosophy Workshop Organizer Coordinated with MIT graduate students in organizing cross-department graduate student workshop with faculty keynote Sally Haslanger (MIT)	2021
Michigan-Princeton Meta-Normativity Workshop Organizer Worked with Princeton graduate students toward a cross-department graduate student workshop with faculty keynotes Mark Schroeder (USC) and Chelsea Rosenthal (Simon Fraser)	2021
Ethics Bowl Tournament Judge Evaluated and instructed high school students participating in competition aimed at cultivating critical reasoning and constructive dialogue on complex ethical problems	2021-25
Michigan Philosophy COMPASS Mentor Provided support to philosophy PhD program applicants from under-represented groups	2021-25
Ethics Bowl Case Writing Judge Evaluated proposals for Ethics Bowl tournament cases	2021
Ethics Bowl Coach Worked regularly with under-served high school Ethics Bowl team, instructing them on ethical theory and critical reasoning, and preparing them to compete successfully in tournaments	2020

Refereeing *Acta Analytica, Hypatia, Philosophical Psychology, Philosophy*

References

Sarah Buss
Professor of Philosophy
University of Michigan
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Peter Railton
Gregory S. Kavka Distinguished Professor
University of Michigan
prailton@umich.edu

Brian Weatherson
Marshall M. Weinberg Professor
University of Michigan
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Justin Coates
Professor of Philosophy
University of Houston
djcoates@uh.edu

Eric Swanson (Teaching)
Professor of Philosophy
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