

DR. RYAN E. MCCOY

EMPLOYMENT

- 2024- Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies, Washington & Lee University
Affiliate Faculty, Shepherd Program for Poverty Studies
- 2023-2024 Fellow, United States Department of Agriculture Midwest Climate Hub

EDUCATION

- 2024 University of Kentucky, Philosophy PhD
- 2018 Georgia State University, Philosophy M.A.
- 2015 Belmont University; B.A. in Philosophy *Cum Laude*

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Philosophy of Science; Environmental Ethics; Science and Values

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Applied Ethics; History of Philosophy

PUBLICATIONS

2024. [With Rebekah Duke, Chad Risko, and Julia R.S. Bursten] “Promises and Perils of Big Data: Philosophical Constraints on Chemical Ontologies” *Journal of the American Chemical Society*. <https://doi.org/10.1021/jacs.3c11399>
2020. “Is Modern Science a Problem for Living as a Pyrrhonist Today? A Discussion of Richard Bett’s ‘Can we be Ancient Sceptics?’” *International Journal for the Study of Skepticism* 11, 3 (2020): 225-242.

PAPERS IN PROGRESS

“The Contributory Role of Local Knowledge in Climate Research” (under review)

I discuss current limitations for regional climate modeling, as well as how this impacts climate mitigation and adaptation efforts. I both argue for and show how transdisciplinary approaches to climate research that include the knowledge and expertise of local communities can help to address these issues.

“Implementing Climate-Smart Agricultural Practices: A Partial Overlaps Approach” (draft available upon request)

I discuss the need for climate-smart agricultural practices and obstacles for their implementation, including economic constraints, climate skepticism, and knowledge of effective practices. Drawing from fieldwork in Michigan with farmers and other agricultural stakeholders, I propose utilizing a partial overlaps framework as a tool

for overcoming these obstacles, and fostering collaboration among diverse stakeholder groups.

“Between Pessimism and Optimism: Local Knowledge Inclusion in Climate Change Research” (draft available upon request)

Navigating differences in ontological, epistemological, and value commitments between researchers and local communities poses a problem for local knowledge inclusion in climate change research. I argue that we adopt David Ludwig’s “partial overlaps” approach in order to facilitate knowledge inclusion and co-production without overlooking important differences between these epistemic communities.

[with Dr. Carmen Agourdis, Dr. Lauren Cagle, Dr. Amanda Gumbert, Michael Corio, and Lee Moser] “Adapting a Path Forward: Results & Implications of a Climate Change Needs Assessment of Kentucky Cooperative Extension” (white paper and draft available on request)

We discuss the methods, results, and implications of our climate change needs assessment of personnel within Kentucky Cooperative Extension.

PRESENTATIONS

2024. “Implementing Climate-Smart Agricultural Practices: A Partial Overlaps Approach” Philosophy of Science Association; New Orleans, LA.

“A Partial Overlaps Approach to Transdisciplinary Climate Research” Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science; remote.

“Implementing Climate-Smart Agricultural Practices: A Partial Overlaps Approach” Society for Philosophy of Science in Practice; Columbia, SC.

[with Rebekah Duke, Chad Risko, and Julia Bursten] “Promises and Perils of Big Data: Philosophical Constraints on Chemical Ontologies” Society for Philosophy of Science in Practice; Columbia, SC.

[with Carmen Agourdis, Lauren Cagle, Amanda Gumbert, Michael Corio, and Lee Moser] “Incorporating Climate Change into Kentucky Cooperative Extension Programming” Kentucky Extension Disaster Preparedness Conference; Lexington, KY.

“Navigating Commitment Differences in the Implementation of Sustainable Ag Practices” Kentucky Climate Consortium: Climate Chats; remote.

2023. “Agriculture and the Climate Crisis” invited lecture for Philosophy and Social Change, DePaul University; Chicago, IL.

“What Potatoes Can Teach us About Classification” invited lecture for Seminar on Classification, University of Kentucky; Lexington, KY.

[with Carmen Agourdis, Lauren Cagle, Amanda Gumbert, Michael Corio, and Lee Moser] “Adapting a Path Forward: Results & Implications of a Climate Change Needs Assessment

of Kentucky Cooperative Extension” (Poster) Kentucky Water Resources Annual Symposium; Lexington, KY.

“Global Models, Local Issues: Local Knowledge, Extension, and Climate Change Research” Michigan State University Department of Philosophy Colloquium Series; East Lansing, MI.

“Between Pessimism and Optimism: Local Knowledge Inclusion in Climate Change Research” (Work in Progress) Socially Engaged Philosophy of Science (SEPOS) Research Group; East Lansing, MI.

2022. “The Contributory Role of Local Knowledge in Climate Research” (Poster) Philosophy of Science Association; Pittsburgh, PA.

[with Robert Batterman, Julia Bursten, Jennifer Jhun, Collin Rice] “Multiscale Modeling Across the Sciences: Tailoring Techniques to Particular Contexts” (Session Chair) Philosophy of Science Association; Pittsburgh, PA.

“The Role of Local Knowledge in Understanding Climate Change” British Society for Philosophy of Science; Exeter, United Kingdom.

“Can Local Knowledge Contribute to our Understanding of Climate Change?” Society for Philosophy of Science in Practice; Ghent, Belgium.

2019. “Pyrrhonism as a Way of Life and the Problem of Modern Science.” Society for Ancient Greek Philosophy; Christopher Newport University, Newport News, VA.

“Reexamining the Role of the Epigraph in Nietzsche’s *GM* III.” American Philosophical Association: Central Division; Denver, CO.

2017. “Heidegger, Science, and the Objectivity of Presence-at-Hand.” 49th Annual Meeting of the Tennessee Philosophical Association; Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.

2015. “The End of Philosophy: Habermas’ Stand-in and Interpreter.” Southern Appalachian Undergraduate Philosophy Conference; University of North Carolina Asheville, Asheville, NC.

—San Diego State University Student Conference in Philosophy, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA (October 2015).

“Entering the Native Realm of Truth: Hegel’s Transition from Consciousness to Self-Consciousness in the *Phenomenology of Spirit*.” Belmont Undergraduate Research Symposium, Belmont University, Nashville, TN (April 2015).

REVIEWS AND NEWSLETTERS

2023. Review of *The Responsible Scientist* by John Forge. Philosophy of Science Association Short Reads (forthcoming).

[With Julia Bursten, Catherine Kendig, Gregory Rogel, and Joshua Tonkel] “Philosophy of Science Research Addresses Extension’s Unique Contributions to Scientific Progress”
Michigan State University Extension Bulletin (forthcoming).

RESEARCH EMPLOYMENT

Fellow, USDA-ARS Midwest Climate Hub, Climate Services Assessment (2023-2024)
Research Assistant to Dr. Lauren Cagle, Kentucky Climate Consortium (Fall 2023)
Research Assistant to Dr. Julia Bursten, National Science Foundation EPSCoR Fellowship, “The Epistemology of Agricultural Science” (2022-23)
Project Team Member for Kentucky Extension Climate Needs Assessment Survey (2022-)
Project Team Member/Interviewer for Dr. Lauren Cagle, Kentucky Climate Consortium Oral History Project (2022-23)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Washington & Lee University

Assistant Professor

Introduction to Environmental Studies (Fall 2024)

Seminar in Environmental Philosophy: Food Ethics (Fall 2024)

University of Kentucky

Instructor

Ethics (Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021)

Food Ethics (Fall 2020, 2021, 2022)

Healthcare Ethics (Summer 2021)

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Individual and Society (Fall 2019)

Food Ethics (Spring 2020)

Belmont University

Instructor

Introduction to Philosophy (Fall 2018, Spring 2019)

Ethics (Spring 2019)

Georgia State University

Instructor

Introduction to Philosophy (Fall 2017, Spring 2018)

Supplemental Instruction Leader

Critical Thinking (Spring 2017, Summer 2017)

Writing Across the Curriculum Consultant

Introduction to Philosophy (Fall 2016)

GRANTS

“USDA Midwest Climate Hub Assessment of Climate Services” Grant #59-5030-4-003 (PI),
United States Department of Agriculture, \$75,000 (2024-26)

HONORS AND AWARDS

ORISE Fellowship, USDA Midwest Climate Hub (2023-2024)

Kentucky Climate Consortium Graduate Assistantship (Fall 2023)

University of Kentucky Sustainability Challenge Grant Award (2023, 2024)
Research Assistantship through National Science Foundation EPSCoR Fellowship (Spring 2023)
University of Kentucky Philosophy Departmental Fellowship (Spring 2022)
University of Kentucky Graduate Assistantship (2019-present)
Georgia State University Graduate Assistantship (2016-18)
The Virginia Osborne “Outstanding Student in Philosophy” (2015)
Phi Sigma Tau Philosophy Honors Society (2015)
Max Kade Foundation Travel Grant Recipient (Summer 2015)

SERVICE

Kentucky Climate Consortium Executive Committee Member (2023-24)
Graduate Student Congress Representative (2020-21)
GSC Institutional Research Committee Member (2020-21)
Philosophy Graduate Student Association President (2020-21)
Graduate Student Organization Leadership Representative (2020-21)
Associate Dean of Graduate Studies Hiring Committee Member (Fall 2021)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Socially Engaged Philosophy of Science
Society for Philosophy of Science in Practice
Philosophy of Science Association
Kentucky Climate Consortium
University of Kentucky Environmental Humanities Initiative
National Extension Climate Initiative
Mellon Philosophy as a Way of Life Project

REFERENCES

- Dr. Julia Bursten, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy; Director of Graduate Studies, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, jrbursten@uky.edu, (859) 257-6540.
- Dr. Lauren Cagle, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and Digital Studies; Director of Environmental and Sustainability Studies; Director of the Kentucky Climate Consortium, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, lauren.cagle@uky.edu, (859) 257-1115.
- Dr. Catherine Kendig, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy; Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, kendig@msu.edu.
- Dr. Bob Sandmeyer, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy and Environmental and Sustainability Studies; Director of the Environmental Humanities Initiative, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, bob.sandmeyer@uky.edu, (859)-257-7749. (Teaching Reference)
- Dr. Dennis Todey, Ph.D., Director, USDA-ARS Midwest Climate Hub; Ames, IA, dennis.todey@ars.usda.gov, 515-294-2013.