

John Basl

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Academic Appointments

Northeastern University

Associate Professor	2019 -
Assistant Professor	2013 – 2019

Harvard University

AI Initiative Fellow-in-Residence	2019 – 2020
- Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics	
- Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society	

Bowling Green State University

Assistant Professor	2011 – 2013
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Education

University of Wisconsin – Madison

Ph.D. in Philosophy	2011
M.A. in Philosophy	2009

Northeastern University

B.S. in Philosophy	2006
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Areas of Specialization

Applied Ethics (Technology, AI, Environment), Ethics, Philosophy of Biology

Areas of Competence

Philosophy of Science, Metaethics, Epistemology

Books and Edited Collections

Basl, J., *The Death of the Ethic of Life*
Oxford University Press, 2019

Basl, J., and Sandler, R. (eds), *Designer Biology: The Ethics of Intensively Engineering Biological and Ecological Systems*
Lexington Books, 2013

Reports and White Papers

Sandler, R., and Basl, J., “Building Data and AI Ethics Committees” in collaboration with Accenture and Steven Tiell, 2019. Available at: northeastern.edu/accenturereport

Refereed Articles

- Basl, J., and Schouten, G., "Can We Use Social Policy to Enhance Compliance with Moral Obligations to Animals?"
Ethical Theory and Moral Practice, 21(3) 2018, pp 629-647
- Basl, J., "A Trilemma for Teleological Individualism"
Synthese, (194:4) 2017, pp. 1057-74
- Basl, J., and Coons, C., "Ought to Is: The Puzzle of Moral Science"
Oxford Studies in Metaethics: Vol. 12, Shafer-Landau, R., 2017
- Smead, R., Sandler, R., Forber, P., and Basl, J., "A Bargaining Game Analysis of International Climate Negotiations"
Nature Climate Change, (4) 2014, pp. 442-445
- Basl, J., "Machines as Moral Patients We Shouldn't Care About (Yet)"
Philosophy and Technology, (27:1) 2014, pp. 79-96
- Basl, J., and Sandler, R., "The Good of Non-Sentient Entities: Organisms, Artifacts, and Synthetic Biology"
Studies in History and Philosophy of the Biological and Biomedical Sciences, (44:4) Part B, 2013 pp. 697-706
- Basl, J., "State Neutrality and the Ethics of Human Enhancement Technologies"
American Journal of Bioethics: Neuroscience (1:2) 2010, pp. 41-48
- Basl, J., "Restitutive Restoration: New Motivations for Ecological Restoration"
Environmental Ethics (32:2) 2010, pp. 135-147

Book Chapters

- Behrends, J., and Basl, J., "Trolleys and Autonomous Vehicles: New Foundations for the Ethics of Machine Learning"
Autonomous Vehicle Ethics: Beyond the Trolley Problem, Jenkins, R., Cerny, D., Hribek, T., (eds.), Oxford University Press, In Press.
- Basl, J., and Bowen, J., "Rights"
Oxford Handbook of AI Ethics, Dubber, M., Pasquale, F., Das, D., (eds.), Oxford University Press, In Press.
- Eckelman, M., Isaacs, J., Basl, J., Bosso, C., Eggelson, K., "Case Studies of Product Life Cycle Environmental Impacts for Teaching Engineering Ethics"
Next Generation Ethics, Ali Abbas (ed.), Cambridge University Press, Forthcoming
- Basl, J., "Sensitivity Enhancement: The Ethics of Engineering Non-Human Research Subjects"
Designer Biology: The Ethics of Intensively Engineering Biological and Ecological Systems, Basl, J. and Sandler, R. (eds.), Lexington Books, 2013
- Basl, J. and Sandler, R., "Three Puzzles Regarding the Moral Status of Synthetic Organisms"
Synthetic Biology and Morality: Artificial Life and the Bounds of Nature, Kaebnick, G. and Murray T.H. (eds), The MIT Press, 2013
- Basl, J., "The Moral Status of Artificial Intelligences"
Ethics and Emerging Technologies, Sandler, R. (ed.), Palgrave-Macmillan, 2013
- Streiffer, R., and Basl, J., "The Ethics of Engineering Animals for Agriculture"

Ethics and Emerging Technologies, Sandler, R. (ed.), Palgrave-Macmillan, 2013
 Streiffer, R., and Basl, J., "Ethical Issues in the Application of Biotechnology to Animals in Agriculture"
 Oxford Handbook of Animal Ethics, Beauchamp, T. and Frey, R. (eds.), Oxford University Press, 2011

Invited Articles and Reviews

Basl, J., Review of *Subhuman*, by T.J. Kasperbauer
Notre Dame Philosophical Review (2018).
 Basl, J., "The Ethics of Creating Artificial Consciousnesses"
APA Newsletter on Philosophy and Computers (13:1) 2013, pp. 23-29
 Basl, J., "Nothing Good Will Come from Giving Up Aetiological Accounts of Teleology"
Philosophy & Technology (25:4) 2012, pp. 543-546
 Sandler, R., and Basl, J., "Transhumanism, Human Dignity, and Moral Status"
 Open Peer Commentary, *American Journal of Bioethics* (10:7) 2010, pp. 63-66

External Grant and Fellowship Funding (* = pending)

"FW-HTF-RL: Co-worker Robots to Impact Seafood Processing (CRISP): Tools and Methods for Enhanced Worker Experience Co-Principal Investigator (Taskin Padir, PI) NSF-1928654 Total Award: 2,500,000	2019 – 2023
"Ethics Education in Life Cycle Design, Engineering, and Management" Co-Principal Investigator (Matthew Eckelman, PI) NSF-1338687 Total Award: \$247,724	2015 - 2017
"Designing and Integrating LCA Methods for Nanomanufacturing Scale-Up" Researcher (Jackie Isaacs, PI) NSF-1120329 Total Award: \$1,259,658	2015 - 2017
Northeastern University's Nanotechnology and Society Research Group, Summer Research Fellow (Ron Sandler, PI) Amount Awarded: \$55,000	2008 – 2012

Other Awards and Recognition

Exemplary Engineering Ethics Programs National Academy of Engineering Center for Engineering Ethics and Society Recognized for Case Studies and Ethics Primer (with Matthew Eckelman, Jacqueline Isaacs, Christopher Bosso, and Kathy Eggleston)	2016
Department of Residential Life's Faculty Member of the Year Northeastern University	2014-2015
The Berent Enç Graduate Teaching Award Department of Philosophy, UW-Madison	2011

Talks

“Ethics in the Age of Information and AI” Inbound	2019
“Why Everyone has it Wrong About the Ethics of Autonomous Vehicles” (co-authored with Jeff Behrends) National Academy of Engineers – Frontiers of Engineering Symposium Toronto Centre for Ethics	2019 2019
“Artifact Welfare? A Problem of Exclusion for Biocentrism” Toronto Centre for Ethics	2019
“Of Trolleys and Teslas: Could Trolley Cases Help Us To Understand How to Program Autonomous Vehicles” (Co-authored with Jeff Behrends) Centre for Ethics – University of Toronto AIEA – UMass Boston Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress Safra Center for Ethics Tufts University STS Brownbag Technology, Knowledge, and Society Conference	2019 2019 2018 2018 2018 2019
“Ethical Challenges in Robotics” NU@Noon	2017
“Default Assumptions and Moral Principles” Northeastern CSSH Welcome Talk	2017
Artificial Intelligence and Moral Status – An Introduction Northeastern Master Class	2017
“Do We Need AI Research Subjects Oversight Committees” (Co-authored with Ronald Sandler) Ethics of AI, Center for Mind, Brain, and Consciousness at NYU Robotics: Law and Ethics, The Italian Academy at Columbia University	2016 2016
“Two Dogmas of Biocentrism” Workshop on Value Theory in Environmental Ethics, CREUM, Montreal	2016
“The Inadequacy of Traditional Moral Status Arguments for Abolition of Animal Consumption and Experimentation” (with Gina Schouten) Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress	2015
“Identifying and Addressing Ethical Challenges in Emerging Technology” *Plenary Address, 3 rd Annual Graduate Student Workshop in Applied Philosophy at Bowling Green State University	2015
“The Levels of Selection and the Instability of Individualism in Environmental Philosophy” ISHPSSB, University du Quebec a Montreal	2015
“Inferring from Ought to Is: The Puzzle of Moral Science” (Co-authored with Christian Coons) Chapel Hill Metaethics Workshop Rocky Mountain Ethics Conference	2015 2014

Department of Philosophy, Bowling Green State University	2014
“The Costs of Being Made Good Enough: Moral Enhancement as a Solution to Climate Change”(Co-authored with Avery Forget)	
American Philosophical Association (Eastern Division), ISEE Group Meeting	2014
“Biological Interests and Voluntary Amputation”	
Western Michigan University Medical Humanities Conference	2014
“Philosophical and Ethical Problems in Scientific Research”	
New England College of Optometry	2014
“Two Dogmas of Biocentrism I: The Individualist Dogma”	
Rocky Mountain Ethics Conference	2013
“Making Animals Too Smart for Their Own Good: The Ethical Concerns Associated with Enhancing Non-Human Animals”	
Department of Philosophy, Coastal Carolina University	2013
Department of Philosophy and Religion, Northeastern University	2013
American Philosophical Association (Pacific Division)	2012
Department of Philosophy, Concordia University	2011
Northeastern Workshop in Applied Philosophy	2011
“Two Dogmas of Biocentrism II: The Biocentric Dogma”	
Teleological Organisation: Organisms, Ecosystems, and Artifacts at Carlsberg Akademi, Copenhagen	2012
“Machines as Moral Patients”	
Symposium for AISB / IACAP World Congress	2012
“The Case for Biological Well-Being”	
Eastern Michigan University’s 2 nd Annual Undergraduate Philosophy Conference (Keynote Speaker)	2012
Restitutive Restoration: A New Model of Restoration	
Sustainable U: Perspectives on Sustainability in Higher Education in Northwest Ohio and Beyond, Bowling Green State University	2011
“Ecosystem Selection and the Trait-Group Framework”	
ISHPSSB, University of Utah	2011
“The Levels of Selection, Moral Considerability, and the Teleological Organization of Biotic Communities”	
American Philosophical Association (Central Division), ISEE Group Meeting	2011
Department of Philosophy, Bowling Green State University	2011
Department of Philosophy, Florida International University	2011
Department of Philosophy, Beloit College	2010
“On the Possibility and Implications of Moral Status Enhancement”	
Exploring Human Enhancement Symposium, The Center for Values, in Medicine, Science, and Technology at the University of Texas at Dallas	2011
“On the Possibility and Implications of Moral Status Enhancement in Non-Human Research Subjects”	
Department of Philosophy and Political Science, Quinnipiac University	2011
“Locating Selection: Problems for Trait-Group Realism”	
Graduate University of Wisconsin Philosophy Conference,	2010

University of Wisconsin – Madison	
“Getting Social”	
American Association of Philosophy Teachers	2010
International Workshop-Conference on Teaching Philosophy	
“Restoration in the Age of Machines: Restoration, Restitution, and Nanotechnology”	
American Philosophical Association (Eastern Division), ISEE Group Meeting	2008

Selected Media Appearances and Popular Publications

AI should have the same ethical protections as animals, with Eric Schwitzgebel	
in Aeon Magazine (April 26, 2019)	
Frankenstein and his creation: Who's the real monster?	
Examining Ethics Podcast (October 25, 2017)	
Designer babies on the horizon?	
Top of Mind with Julie Rose (September 5, 2017)	
Neuromarketing in the age of iPhones	
The Epoch Times (March 3, 2017)	

Commentaries

On Kyle Fruh’s “Wild Rights”	2013
American Philosophical Association (Eastern Division), Main Program	
On Nathan Kowalski’s “The Metaphysics of Crisis: Maintaining Moral Contingency	2010
in Environmental Philosophy	
American Philosophical Association (Pacific Division), ISEE Group Meeting	
On Avram Hiller’s “What is Appropriate Use”	2008
Fifth Annual ISEE/IAEP Joint Meeting on Environmental Philosophy	

Courses Taught

Graduate Level

Biocentrism and Moral Status
 1st Year Proseminar (20th Century Analytic)
 Ethics of Emerging Technologies

Undergraduate Level

Introduction to Ethics
 Biomedical Ethics
 Environmental Ethics
 Honors Ethics of Technology
 Technology and Human Values
 History of Ethics
 Contemporary Moral Issues Online
 Metaphysics
 Research Ethics Online
 Research Skills and Ethics

Professional Activities

Northeastern AI + Data Ethics Working Group	
Director	2018 -
Undergraduate Program Director	

Northeastern University – Philosophy and Religion	2018 -
Northeastern University Departmental Search Committee	
Member	
Northeastern University Tier 1 Grant Committee	
Evaluator	2015
Northeastern University’s First Pages	
Selection Committee	2015-2016
Invited speaker	2014
BGSU Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee	
Member	2011 - 2013
BGSU Arts and Humanities Curriculum Committee	
Member	2012 - 2013
BGSU Philosophy Department Placement Committee	
Assistant	2012 - 2013
BGSU Philosophy Department Personnel Committee	
Chair	2012 - 2013
Member	2011 - 2012
BGSU Philosophy Department Colloquium Committee	
Chair	2011 - 2014
BGSU Philosophy Department Undergraduate Committee	
Member	2011 - 2012
BGSU Workshop in Applied Philosophy 2011 on Manipulation	
Referee	
Referee	
MIT Press	
Oxford University Press	
Synthese	
Philosophy and Technology	
American Journal of Bioethics	
American Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Ethics	
Environmental Values	
Australasian Journal of Philosophy	
Science and Education	
Philosophy TV	
Co-founder and Co-owner	
http://www.philostv.com	
National Science Foundation Proposal Reviewer	