John Basl

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Academic Appointments and Affiliations

Northeastern University

Associate Professor	2019 –
Assistant Professor	2013 – 2019

Associate Director, AI and Data Ethics Initiatives   2021 –
- Northeastern Ethics Institute

Faculty Affiliate, Core AI
- Northeastern Institute for Experiential AI

Harvard University

Faculty Associate   2020 –
- Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics
- Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society

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

Bowling Green State University   2011 – 2013
Assistant Professor

Education

University of Wisconsin – Madison

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

Northeastern University

B.S. in Philosophy	2006

Areas of Specialization

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

Areas of Competence

Philosophy of Science, Metaethics

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., "Getting from Commitment to Content in AI and Data Ethics: Justice
    and Explainability", in collaboration with Atlantic Council and Steven Tiell, 2021.

Sandler, R., and Basl, J., "Building Data and AI Ethics Committees", in collaboration with
    Accenture and Steven Tiell, 2019.

Refereed Articles

Kopec, M., et al., "The Effectiveness of Embedded Values Analysis Modules in Computer Science
    Education: An Empirical Study
    Big Data & Society, Forthcoming.

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: The Trolley Problem and Beyond, Jenkins, R., Cerny, D.,
    Hribek, T., (eds.), Oxford University Press, 2022.

Sandler R., and Basl, J., "Justified Species Partiality"
> Animals in Our Midst, Bovenkerk, B., and Keulartz, J. (eds.), Springer, 2021.

Basl, J., and Bowen, J., "AI as Moral Right-Holders"
> Oxford Handbook of AI Ethics, Dubber, M., Pasquale, F., Das, D., (eds.), Oxford University Press, 2020.

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, 2019.

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 Grants and Funding

Research Community Development Grant: Summer Training Program to Expand the AI and Data Ethics Community   2023 – 2025
> Role: Co-PI (Ronald Sandler, PI)
> Funding Agency: NSF-2147220
> Total Award: $299,375

Digital Health Humanities Teaching Modules   2022 – 2025
> Role: Senior Investigator (Sari Altschuler, PI)
> Funding Agency: NEH (AKA-270156-20)
> Total Award: $149,673

Value-Sensitive Design for Early Stage VR and AR Research   2020 – 2021
     Role: Project Lead
     Funding Agency: Facebook Reality Labs
     Total Award: $90,000

"Mid-scale RI-1 (MY:IP): Observatory for Online Human and Platform Behavior   2021 – 2026
     Role: Senior Personnel (David Lazer, PI)
     Funding Agency: NSF-2131929
     Total Award: $15,717,700

"FW-HTF-RL: Co-worker Robots to Impact Seafood Processing (CRISP):   2019 – 2023
Tools and Methods for Enhanced Worker Experience
     Role: Co-PI (Taskin Padir, PI)
     Funding Agency: NSF-1928654
     Total Award: $2,500,000

"Towards a Digital Health Humanities Curriculum: Tools and Strategies"   2019 – 2021
     Role: Senior Investigator (Sari Altschuler, PI)
     Funding Agency: NEH (AKA-270156-20)
     Total Award: $35,000

"Ethics Education in Life Cycle Design, Engineering, and Management"   2015 - 2017
     Role: Co-PI (Matthew Eckelman, PI)
     Funding Agency: NSF-1338687
     Total Award: $247,724

"Designing and Integrating LCA Methods for Nanomanufacturing Scale-Up" 2015 - 2017
     Role: Researcher (Jackie Isaacs, PI)
     Funding Agency: NSF-1120329
     Total Award: $1,259,658

Other Awards and Recognition

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

Talks

"An Ethics Ecosystem for AI and Big Data: What, Why, How"
     Broad Institute   2023
     New England UAS and AAM Fall Summit   2022
     MATRIX AI Consortium for Human Well-Being Seminar (UTSA) 2022
     University of Florida AI Ethics and Policy Symposium   2022
"What We Owe to Decision Subjects: Beyond Transparency and Explanation

In Automated Decision-Making"
    (co-authored with David Gray Grant and Jeff Behrends)
        University of Georgia, Kleiner Colloquium Series   2023
        DLI Seminar, Cornell Tech   2022
        Bentley University Center for Business Ethics   2021
        Digital Data and Emerging Technologies – University of Magna Graecia 2021
        New Challenges for Applied Ethics Seminar Series   2021
        Rocky Mountain Ethic Congress   2020
"Classifier Robustness: Beyond Accuracy in the Ethics of Algorithmic Decision-Making"
    (co-authored with Daniel Rassaby)
        Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress   2021

"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)
        Centre for Moral, Social, and Political Theory – ANU   2019
        National Academy of Engineers – Frontiers of Engineering Symposium 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 Beherends)
        Centre for Ethics – University of Toronto   2019
        AIEX – Umass Boston   2019
        Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress   2018
        Safra Center for Ethics   2018
        Tufts University STS Brownbag   2018
        Technology, Knowledge, and Society Conference   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   2016
        Robotics: Law and Ethics, The Italian Academy at Columbia University 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, 3rd 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   2015
  Rocky Mountain Ethics Conference   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 2012
  Carlsberg Akademi, Copenhagen
 "Machines as Moral Patients"
  Symposium for AISB / IACAP World Congress   2012
"The Case for Biological Well-Being"
  Eastern Michigan University's 2nd Annual Undergraduate   2012
  Philosophy Conference (Keynote Speaker)
Restitutive Restoration: A New Model of Restoration
  Sustainable U: Perspectives on Sustainability in Higher Education 2011
  in Northwest Ohio and Beyond, Bowling Green State University
"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,   2011
in Medicine, Science, and Technology at the University of Texas at Dallas
"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

Ethics in the Age of Information and AI
Inspired Money Podcast (December 3, 2019)
AIs 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	Undergraduate Level
Biocentrism and Moral Status	Introduction to Ethics
1st Year Proseminar (20th Century Analytic)	Biomedical Ethics
Ethics of Emerging Technologies	Environmental Ethics
AI Ethics	Honors Ethics of Technology

Technology and Human Values
History of Ethics
Contemporary Moral Issues Online
Metaphysics
Research Ethics Online
Research Skills and Ethics

Selected Professional Activities

AI and Ethics	2020 –
Editorial Board Member	
10th Annual Values in Science, Medicine, and Technology Conference	
Program Committee	2020
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/Reviewer	
AI and Ethics	
American Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Ethics	

American Journal of Bioethics
Australiasian Journal of Philosophy
Business Ethics Quarterly
Environmental Ethics
Environmental Values
Journal of the APA
MIT Press
National Science Foundation
Oxford University Press
Philosophy and Technology
Public Affairs Quarterly
Science and Education
Synthese

Philosophy TV
Co-founder and Co-owner
http://www.philostv.com