

# Sean C. Donahue

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US Citizen

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## Research

### Areas of Specialization

Political Philosophy, Epistemology

### Areas of Competence

Ethics, Metaethics, Logic, Philosophy of Science

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## Education

### University of Southern California, Los Angeles

Ph.D. Philosophy, *Expected Before May 2022*

**Dissertation Title:** *Public Justification Beyond Legitimacy*

### Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich

M.A. Logic and Philosophy of Science, December 2014

### University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh

No Degree, General Studies in Mathematics, May 2011

### St. John's College, Annapolis

B.A. Liberal Arts, May 2010

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## Fellowships, Grants, and Awards

USC Graduate School Summer Research and Writing Grant, 2019

*University-wide competitive grant*

Carl and Carolyn Franklin Fellowship, 2015

Deutschland Stipendium, 2013

*Competitive academic stipend for students at German universities*

Horatio Alger Scholarship for Students Overcoming Adversity, 2006

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## Publications

### Academic

- 'Powerful Deceivers and Public Reason Liberalism: An Argument for Externalization', *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, 2021. ([LINK](#))
- 'Public Justification and the Veil of Testimony', *Journal of Political Philosophy*, 2020. ([LINK](#))
- 'Knowledge Exclusion and the Rationality of Belief', *Analysis*, 2019. ([LINK](#))

## Public

- ‘As Collective Memory Fades, So Will Our Ability to Prepare for the Next Pandemic’  
*The Conversation*, 2020 • *Over 18,000 reads as of August 2021* ([LINK](#))

## Book Reviews

- ‘What’s the Point of Political Philosophy?’ Review of Jonathan Floyd, *What’s the Point of Political Philosophy?* *Journal of Moral Philosophy*, conditionally accepted.

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## Presentations

### Invited Presentations

Autonomy and Information Overload

*American Philosophical Association, Eastern Conference, January 2022 (Upcoming)*

Collective Procedural Memory

*Social Ontology, August 2021*

Autonomy and Information Overload

*New Mexico-Texas Philosophical Society, May 2021*

The Analytic-Continental Divide: Lessons from Public Reason Liberalism

*CUNY Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, April 2020*

*(Cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic)*

In Defense of Blame from the Blue

*WMU Graduate Student Philosophy Conference, Kalamazoo, November 2019*

### Talks

Dark Knowledge

*Australian Association of Philosophy Conference, Wollongong, July 2019*

The Challenge of the Fine-Grainedness of Evidence for the Uniqueness Thesis

*Spec Society, University of Southern California, November 2017*

Trick Coins and Doxastic Voluntarism

*Spec Society, University of Southern California, April 2016*

### Comments

Formal Epistemology Workshop, Seattle, 2017

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## Teaching

### Main Instructor, University of Southern California

Reasoning and Argument A, (half-semester course) Fall 2018

Reasoning and Argument B, (half-semester course) Fall 2018

## **Main Instructor, Prison Education Program**

Ethics (Session Leader and Co-instructor) Spring 2021

## **Teaching Assistance, University of Southern California**

Contemporary Moral and Social Issues, Zoë Johnson King, Fall 2021

Science, Knowledge, and Objectivity, Porter Williams, Spring 2021

Philosophy, Politics, and Economics in Europe, from the Renaissance to 1800, Jacob Soll, Fall 2020,

Freedom, Equality, and Social Justice, Jonathan Quong, Fall 2017

Religion, Science, and The Making of the Modern Mind, Zlatan Damnjanovic, Spring 2016

Current Moral and Social Issues, Jacob Ross, Fall 2016

## **Teaching Assistance, LMU Munich**

Central Topics in Philosophy of Science, Stephan Hartman, Winter 2014

Introduction to the Philosophy of Science, Stephan Hartmann, Summer 2014

Introduction to the Philosophy of Science, Stephan Hartmann, Summer 2013

## **Guest Lecturing**

Zoë Johnson King, *Contemporary Moral and Social Issues*, September 2021.

## **Pedagogical Training**

Future Faculty Teaching Institute, USC, 2020

*Semester long instruction on pedagogy and course design*

Teaching Philosophy, USC, Mark Schroeder, 2016

*Half-Semester instruction on general pedagogy*

Certification in English Language Teaching to Adults (CELTA), Teaching House Boston, 2012

*Month long intensive on pedagogy and lesson design*

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## *Graduate Coursework*

### **Value Theory**

Seminar in Philosophy of Law

Seminar in Ethics

Contemporary Value Theory

Reasoning

Rationality

Logic's Role in Thought and Reasoning

USC, Jon Quong, Gary Watson, Spring 2017

USC, Stephen Finlay, Fall 2016

USC, Mark Schroeder, Spring 2016

LMU, Stephan Hartmann, Summer 2014

LMU, Olivier Roy, Summer 2013

LMU, Florian Steinberger, Winter 2012

### **Epistemology**

Plato

British Empiricism

Seminar in Epistemology

Topics in Epistemology

USC, Ralph Wedgwood, Fall 201

USC, James van Cleve, Spring 2016

USC, Ralph Wedgwood, Fall 2015

LMU, Florian Steinberger, Summer 2013

## **Philosophy of Science**

Seminar in the Philosophy of Science  
Central Topics in Philosophy of Science II  
Central Topics in Philosophy of Science I

USC, David Wallace, Spring 2017  
LMU, Stephan Hartmann, Winter 2013  
LMU, Stephan Hartmann, Winter 2012

## **Logic**

Intermediate Symbolic Logic  
Modal Logic  
Proof Theory in Philosophy  
Logic II

USC, Jeffrey Russell, Fall 2015  
LMU, Norbert Gratzel, Summer 2014  
LMU, Ole Hjortland, Summer 2013  
LMU, Ole Hjortland, Summer 2013

## **Philosophy of Logic**

Seminar in the Philosophy of Logic  
Central Topics in Philosophical Logic II  
Central Topics in Philosophical Logic I  
Contemporary Philosophy of Logic

USC, Andrew Bacon, Spring 2016  
LMU, Hannes Leitgeb, Summer 2014  
LMU, Hannes Leitgeb, Summer 2013  
LMU, Ole Hjortland, Winter 2012

## **Language**

Contemporary Philosophy of Language  
Simulations in Philosophy of Language  
Contemporary Philosophy of Language

USC, Scott Soames, Fall 2015  
LMU, Conor Mayo-Wilson, Winter 2013  
LMU, Florian Steinberger, Winter 2012

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## *Academic Service*

### **Refereeing**

Applications for Gathering Philosophers in Southern California, 2019  
USC/UCLA Graduate Philosophy Conference, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019  
*Erkenntnis*, 2016  
*Journal of Political Philosophy*, 2021  
*Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, 2021

### **Administrative**

Treasurer of Pegasus, 2017-2018  
*Pegasus is USC's philosophy graduate student organization*  
President of Spec Society, 2016-2017  
*Spec Society is USC's philosophy graduate student presentation workshop*

### **Memberships**

Fellow, Conceptual Foundations of Conflict Project, Fall 2020-Spring 2021.

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*References*

**Jon Quong**

Professor of Philosophy  
University of Southern California  
quong@usc.edu

**Mark Schroeder**

Professor of Philosophy  
University of Southern California  
maschroe@usc.edu

**John Hawthorne**

Professor of Philosophy  
University of Southern California  
jhawthor@usc.edu

**Jeffrey Russell (teaching)**

Associate Professor of Philosophy  
University of Southern California  
jeff.russell@usc.edu

*Language Competency*

**German**

*Reading:* Intermediate

*Speaking:* Beginner

*Writing:* Beginner

**French**

*Reading:* Beginner

*Speaking:* None

*Writing:* None

**English**

*Reading:* Fluent

*Speaking:* Fluent

*Writing:* Fluent