

Kurt Blankschaen, PhD

Daemen University
4380 Main Street
Amherst, New York 14226
kblanksc@daemen.edu

EMPLOYMENT

Daemen University

Associate Professor of Philosophy
Assistant Professor of Philosophy

Amherst, New York
2025-Present
2019-2025

EDUCATION

Boston University

PhD, Philosophy

Dissertation: *Social Identities and Special Obligations*

1st Reader: Ann Cudd

2nd Reader: Sally Haslanger

Graduate Certificate: Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Boston, Massachusetts
2019

The University of Kansas

MA, Philosophy

PhD candidate, transferred to Boston University in 2015

Thesis: *Passing Identities in Public: Speech Acts and Special Obligations*

Chair: Ann Cudd

Lawrence, Kansas
2015

Arizona State University

MA, Philosophy

Thesis: *Logical Generics and Gay Identity*

Chair: Cheshire Calhoun

Tempe, Arizona
2012

The University of Dayton

BA, Philosophy, International Studies

Thesis: *Gay Nation: Decolonizing the Forgotten*

Dayton, Ohio
2010

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Bioethics, Ethics, Feminist Philosophy, Medical Humanities

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Social Philosophy, Political Philosophy

PUBLICATIONS

10. "Committing to Marriage Equality." *Public Affairs Quarterly*. (Forthcoming).
9. "Medicine and Moral Innocence." *Journal of Medicine and Philosophy*. (Forthcoming).
8. "Acting Out: Straight Performers Permissibly Portraying Queer Characters." *Journal of Moral Philosophy*. (Available online: <https://doi.org/10.1163/17455243-21050019>).

7. "Including Transgender Identities in Natural Law." *Ergo* 10(18). 493-529. 2023.
6. "Are Mass Shooters a Social Kind?" *Res Philosophica*. 99(4). 427-451. 2022.
5. "And If It Takes Lying: The Ethics of Blood Donor Non-Compliance." *Kennedy Institute of Ethics*. 31(4). 373-404. 2021.
4. "Rethinking Same-Sex Sex in Natural Law Theory," *Journal of Applied Philosophy*. 37(3): 428-445. 2019.
3. "The Ethics of Ordinary and Exact Justification in Blood Donation Deferral Categories for Men Who Have Sex with Men," *Bioethics*. 32(7). 445-453. 2018.
2. "Allied Identities," *Feminist Philosophical Quarterly*. 2(2). 1-23. 2016.
1. "Accepting the Absurd," *Journal of Camus Studies*, 2013.

BOOK CHAPTER

1. "Complacency on Campus: How Allies Can Do Better," with Yingshihan Zhu, in *College Ethics: A Reader on Moral Issues that Affect You*. 2nd edition, Bob Fischer (ed.), 2020.

BOOK REVIEW

1. Review of *Social Dimensions of Moral Responsibility* by Katrina Hutchison, Catriona Mackenzie, Marina Oshana (eds.), (2018 print) in the *Journal of Moral Philosophy* 17(2): 241-44.

SELECT PRESENTATIONS

* invited

1. *"What Can We Reveal about the Dead?" with Travis Timmerman, Symposium on the Ethics of Historical Research and Writing, Institute for the Study of Markets and Ethics, McDonough School of Business, Georgetown University, March 20, 2026.
2. *"Moral Flaws and Focal Points," Office of the General Counsel of the American Red Cross (National), Red Cross National Headquarters, December 11, 2025.
3. "A Predator's Shadow," Romanell Center for Clinical Ethics and the Philosophy of Medicine, University at Buffalo, September 6, 2025.
4. *"Understanding Moral Focal Points," Western New York Region Staff Retreat, American Red Cross, July 16, 2025.
5. "Ameliorating Natural Law's Sexual Ethics," Romanell Center for Clinical Ethics and the Philosophy of Medicine, University at Buffalo, January 17, 2025.
6. *"Including Transgender Identities in Natural Law," Romanell Center for Clinical Ethics and the Philosophy of Medicine, University at Buffalo, August 2, 2024.
7. "Medicine and Moral Innocence," Romanell Center for Clinical Ethics and the Philosophy of Medicine, University at Buffalo, June 14, 2024.
8. "Medicine and Moral Innocence," Media Ecology Conference, Daemen University, June 6, 2024.
9. *"What Does LGBTQIA2S+ Mean?" American Red Cross of Western New York, February 9, 2024.
10. *"Medicine and Moral Innocence," Ostapenko Center for Ethics in Medicine and Healthcare, Niagara University, November 8, 2023.
11. *"Including Transgender Identity in Natural Law," Keynote for 5th Annual Emmanuel College Philosophy Conference, Emmanuel College, April 15, 2023.
12. *"Allied Identities," American Red Cross of Western New York, March 21, 2023.

13. *"Including Transgender Identity in Natural Law," Regis University, September 22, 2022
14. "Natural Law and Trans-Identity," Romanell Center for Clinical Ethics and the Philosophy of Medicine, University at Buffalo, April 30, 2022.
15. *"Trans Identities in Natural Law," Philosophy & Religion Forum, The University of Southern Mississippi, March 29, 2022.
16. "Narrative Ethics and Caring for Patients with Cystic Fibrosis," with Martha Kershaw, Romanell Center for Clinical Ethics and the Philosophy of Medicine, University at Buffalo, December 4, 2021
17. *"The Metaphysics of Marriage," The Central APA, February 26-29, 2020.
18. "Lying in Blood," Romanell Center for Clinical Ethics and the Philosophy of Medicine, University at Buffalo, February 15, 2020.
19. "Reinterpreting Natural Law to be Inclusive of Same-Sex Relationships," Philosophy and the Ethics of Re-Interpretation Boston College Graduate Conference, April 12-13, 2019.
20. "Are Mass Shooters a Social Kind?," International Social Ontology Conference, Tufts University, August 22-25, 2018.
21. "Allied Training, Training Allies," Society for LGBT Philosophy, The Pacific APA, April 13, 2017.
22. "Lying in Blood: The Ethics and Politics of Blood Bans," Great Plains Philosophy Symposium, The University of Kansas, October 16, 2016.
23. "Allied Identities?," Society for LGBT Philosophy, The Eastern APA, January 6, 2016.

SELECT COMMENTS

1. Brian Besong's *Sex in Theory* (2026)
Society for Sex and Love, American Philosophical Association Central
2. John Lawless' "More Than a Capacity: Agency, Oppression, and Paternalism" (2019)
The Creighton Club: Syracuse University
3. Eric Zimmerman's "Spinoza and Process Theology" (2014)
Great Plains Philosophy Graduate Conference: The University of Kansas
4. Shawn Simpson's "Pragmatic Positivist Parallels" (2013)
Southwest Graduate Conference: Arizona State University
5. Jihwan Yu's "Hume's Skepticism on Induction" (2012)
Southwest Graduate Conference: Arizona State University
6. Steven DeLay's "Narrativity and Heideggerian Authenticity" (2011)
Southwest Graduate Conference: Arizona State University

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

1. Member, Board of Directors, Western New York Chapter, American Red Cross (2024-Present)
2. Member, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, Western New York Chapter, American Red Cross (2023-Present)
3. Member, Pride Resource Group, Western New York Chapter, American Red Cross (2023-Present)
4. Fellow, Romanell Center for Clinical Ethics and the Philosophy of Medicine, State University of New York, University at Buffalo (2022-Present)
5. APA Committee on LGBTQ People in the Profession (2019-2022)

6. Referee for *The Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Kennedy Institute of Ethics Journal*, *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*, *Diametros*, *Journal of Applied Philosophy*, *Journal of Medical Ethics*, *Bioethics*, *Philosophers' Imprint*, *Routledge*, *Canadian Journal of Bioethics*, *Philosophy of the Social Sciences*, *Social Theory and Practice*, *Journal of Philosophical and Phenomenological Research*
7. Lima Central Catholic High School (2015-present)
Designed a philosophy curriculum for high school students with Edmund Misiakiewicz (onsite teacher)

SERVICE TO UNIVERSITY

Daemen University

1. Physician Assistant Continuing Medical Education Enduring Materials (2026-Present)
2. How Our Purpose Evolves (HOPE) Summit Presenter (2025-Present)
3. Educational Policy Committee Reconceptualization Task Force 2.0, Member (2025-Present)
4. Faculty Senate, At-Large Member (2024-Present)
5. Residence Life RA Training, Presenter (2024-Present)
6. Lavender Graduation Organizer and Speaker (2023-Present)
7. Religious Ethics in Medicine Lecture for Physician Assistant Program (2021-Present)
8. Campus Standards Board, Member (2021-Present)
9. Medical Humanities Minor, Director (2020-Present)
10. 2025-2030 Strategic Plan, Working Group 2: University Life and Climate, Member (2025-2026)
11. Educational Policy Committee Reconceptualization Task Force, Member (2024-2025)
12. Middle States Commission on Higher Education Self-Study Group, Standard VII, Member (2023-2024)
13. Philosophy and Religious Studies Hiring Search Committee, Chair (2023-2024)
14. Writing Advisory Council, Member (2022-2024)
15. Philosophy and Religious Studies Hiring Search Committee, Member (2022-2023)
16. Equity Summit Presenter (2021-2024)
17. Educational Policy Committee, Member (2021-2023)
18. Scholar's Day Interviewer (2020-2023)
19. Human Subject Research Review Committee, Alternate Member (2020-2022)
20. Safety and Security Committee, Member (2020)

CONFERENCE CHAIRING

1. International Social Ontology Society (2018)
2. Society for Analytical Feminism (2016, 2018)
3. Pacific APA, (2014)

AWARDS

1. Freshmen Top 10 Ceremony 2025 (x2)

COURSES TAUGHT (INSTRUCTOR)

Daemen University

Philosophy 102: Medicine, Culture, and the Self: Introduction to Medical Humanities

Philosophy 110: Philosophical Thinking
Philosophy 247: Independent Study (Ethics of Heroes and Villains)
Philosophy 320: Philosophy of Medicine
Philosophy 321: Medical Ethics
Philosophy 336: Sex, Love, and God
Nursing 614: Ethical Issues in Advanced Nursing Practice

REFERENCES

Available upon request