

Dustin M. Sigsbee, Ph.D.

University of South Carolina

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Academic Positions

University of South Carolina

- Luce Environmental Ethics in Practice Postdoctoral Fellow (2025 – Present)
- Bridge Humanities Teaching Postdoctoral Fellow (2024 – 2025)

Education

Ph. D. Philosophy, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, 2024

Dissertation: Partiality and Animal Ethics: Special Obligations to Animal Companions

Committee: Matthew Kisner, Christopher Tollefsen, Kathryn Lindeman, and Bob Fischer

M.A. Philosophy, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, 2015

B.A. Philosophy with Minor in Political Science and Minor in Ethics, Values, and Society, Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, MI, 2013

Areas of Specialization

AI Ethics, Animal Ethics, Environmental Ethics, Ethical Theory

Areas of Competence

Applied Ethics, Logic

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- “Who Qualifies as Environmental Justice Communities? Ethical Guidance for Environmental Justice Practitioners.” *Ethics, Policy and Environment*, forthcoming, pp. 1-25. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21550085.2025.2601490>. (Co-authored with Dr. Matthew Kisner)
- “Neo-Aristotelian Friendship and Non-Human Animals: Can I be Friends with my Dog?” *Between the Species*, volume 28, issue 1, 2025. <https://digitalcommons.calpoly.edu/bts/vol28/iss1/5/>.
- “What is an Animal Companion? Revisiting the Barnbaum-Varner Definition.” *Journal of Animal Ethics*, vol. 14, no. 2, 2024, pp. 144-152. <https://muse.jhu.edu/article/944820>.
- “Parental Responsibility and Our Special Relationship with Animal Companions.” *The Journal of Value Inquiry*, vol. 58, no. 1, 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10790-023-09973-2>.

Non-Peer-Reviewed Publications

- “Review of *Animal Dignity: Philosophical Reflections on Non-Human Existence*, edited by Melanie Challenger”, *Ethics, Policy and Environment*, vol. 28, no. 1, 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1080/21550085.2024.2371272>.
- “Induction.” *The Wiley Blackwell Encyclopedia of Social Theory*, edited by B.S. Turner, 2017. <https://doi.org/10.1002/9781118430873.est0677>.

Works-In-Progress and Under Review

- “The Ethics of AI Data Centers” (Co-authored with Dr. Matthew Kisner, University of South Carolina)
- “The Case for Environmental Ethics Fellowship Programs: Extending the Model of Clinical Ethics Fellowships to an Environmental Context” (Co-authored with Dr. Matthew Kisner, University of South Carolina)

Select Conference and Colloquium Talks (*Invited)

- “The Ethics of AI Data Centers”, *Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress*, University of Colorado, August 2026. (Co-Presentation with Dr. Matthew Kisner, University of South Carolina)
- “Promoting the Flourishing of Animal Companions”, *Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress*, University of Colorado, August 2025.
- “Defining Environmental Justice Communities: The Ethical Basis of Environmental Justice Policy”, *American Philosophical Association 2025 Pacific Division Meeting (International Society for Environmental Ethics)*, San Francisco, April 2025. (Co-Presentation with Dr. Matthew Kisner, University of South Carolina)
- “The Embedded Ethicist Model in Environmental Ethics”, *American Philosophical Association 2025 Central Division Meeting (Climate Hub)*, Virtual, February-March 2025. (Co-Presentation with Dr. Matthew Kisner, University of South Carolina)
- “Extending Moral Partiality to Non-Human Animals”, *American Philosophical Association 2025 Central Division Meeting*, Virtual, February-March 2025.
- “Extending Moral Partiality to Non-Human Animals”, *Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress*, University of Colorado, August 2024.
- Panelist on Citizen Science in Practice, *Society for Philosophy of Science in Practice*, University of South Carolina, May 2024.*
- “Taking Partiality Seriously: Extending Moral Partiality to Non-Human Animals”, *Queen Street Symposium*, University of South Carolina, March 2024.*
- “What is an Animal Companion? Revisiting the Barnbaum-Varner Definition”, *2024 Joint Meeting of the North Carolina Philosophical Society and the South Carolina Society of Philosophy*, Davidson College, March 2024.
- “The Parent-Child Relationship: Do We Owe Our Animal Companions What We Owe Our Children?”, *Georgia Philosophical Society 2022 Online Conference on Contemporary Issues*, University of Georgia, December 2022.
- “Special Obligations to Animal Companions: The Parent-Child Relationship”, *Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress*, University of Colorado, August 2022.
- “Partiality and Animal Companions”, *Society for the Study of Ethics and Animals 2021 Virtual Colloquium Series*, December 2021.*
- “Can Utilitarian or Rights-Based Approaches Justify Veganism?”, *Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress*, University of Colorado, August 2019.
- “Aristotle’s Conception of Justice: The Standard and Bifunctional Accounts”, *South Carolina Society for Philosophy*, University of South Carolina, March 2019.

Commentaries

- Comments on Jonathan Ichikawa’s, “A Euthyphro Problem for Consent Theory”, *Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress*, University of Colorado, Boulder, August 2023.
- Comments on Brendan Cline’s, “Designing Species”, *Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress*, University of Colorado, Boulder, August 2021.
- Comments on Tommy Graves’s, “Permissive Cases and Conciliationism Are Friends”, *8th Annual Western Michigan University Graduate Philosophy Conference*, Western Michigan University, December 2014.
- Comments on Patrick Cronin’s, “Abduction, Induction, and Reduction”, *Western Michigan University Graduate Philosophy Workshop*, Western Michigan University, October 2014.
- Comments on Joey Miller’s, “What We Can Learn from the Moral Twin Earth Thought Experiments”, *7th Annual Western Michigan University Graduate Philosophy Conference*, Western Michigan University, December 2013.

Referee Work

- Business Ethics Quarterly
- Journal of Applied Animal Ethics Research
- Journal of Animal Science and Research
- Teaching Ethics

Teaching Experience (*Taught Online)

Instructor of Record

University of South Carolina

- SAEL200: Social Advocacy and Ethical Life (Fall '24 – Spring '25)
- PHIL213: Communicating Moral Issues (Fall '19 – Spring '22)
- PHIL325: Engineering Ethics (Summer '19, Summer '21*)

Kalamazoo Valley Community College

- PHI106: Critical Thinking (Fall '15 – Spring '17)
- PHI201: Introduction to Philosophy (Spring '16)
- PHI205: Ethics (Fall '16 – Spring '17)

Albion College

- PHIL101: Introduction to Philosophy (Fall '15)

Western Michigan University

- PHIL2000: Introduction to Philosophy (Fall '14)
- PHIL2010: Contemporary Problems in Ethics (Spring '15, Summer '15*)

Teaching Assistant

University of South Carolina

- PHIL213: Communicating Moral Issues (Fall '17)
- PHIL322: Environmental Ethics (Spring '19)
- PHIL325: Engineering Ethics (Spring '18, Fall '18)

Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth

- Logic: Principles of Reasoning (Summer '14, Summer '15)

Western Michigan University

- PHIL2200: Critical Thinking (Spring '14)
- PHIL3340: Biomedical Ethics (Fall '13*)

Professional Service

- Session Chair, Michal Masny, “Working Time Reduction and the Goods of Work”, *Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress*, University of Colorado, August 2025.
- Session Chair, Luke Goleman, “Gradable Moral Worth”, *Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress*, University of Colorado, August 2025.
- Session Chair, Anton Skretta, “Unforgivable Wrongs: When Victims Cannot Forgive”, *Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress*, University of Colorado, August 2025.
- Assistant Editor, *Daily Nous*, July 2023 – September 2023.
- Web Design, Department of Philosophy, University of South Carolina, July 2023 – present.
- Web Design, American Pragmatics Association, July 2023 – September 2023.
- Session Chair, David DeGrazia, “The Concept of Moral Status”, *Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress*, University of Colorado, August 2022.
- Session Chair, Anna-Bella Sicilia, “In Defense of Genuine Un-Forgiving”, *Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress*, University of Colorado, August 2022.
- Member, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, University of South Carolina, December 2021 – June 2023.

- Colloquia Committee Member, University of South Carolina, Fall 2019 – Spring 2021, Fall 2022 – Spring 2023.
- Session Chair, A.J. Holdier, “Diathetic Injustice: Factory Farms and the Ethics of Alief”, *Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress*, University of Colorado, August 2019.
- Session Chair, Sophia Huerter, “Animal Standpoint Theory: The Imperative of Interpretation”, *Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress*, University of Colorado, August 2019.
- Graduate Student Representative, University of South Carolina, August 2019-May 2020.
- Conference Co-Organizer, *Annual Western Michigan University Philosophy Graduate Conference*, Western Michigan University, Fall 2014.

Grants, Awards, Certificates, and Fellowships

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| • Luce Environmental Ethics in Practice Fellowship, University of South Carolina
Fall 2025 – Present. | (\$50,000) |
| • Bridge Humanities Teaching Fellowship, University of South Carolina,
Fall 2024 – Spring 2025. | (\$45,000) |
| • Travel Grant, Graduate College, University of South Carolina, Summer 2024. | (\$500) |
| • Russel J. and Dorothy S. Bilinski Dissertation Fellowship, University of South
Carolina, Fall 2022 – Spring 2023. | (\$40,000) |
| • Richard Greener Graduate Student Award, University of South Carolina, Spring
2022. | (\$250) |
| • Center for Teaching Excellence Certification: Teaching Online for Graduate
Students, University of South Carolina, Fall 2021. | |
| • Graduate Teaching Award, University of South Carolina, Spring 2021. | (\$100) |
| • Travel Grant, Graduate College, University of South Carolina, Summer 2019. | (\$500) |
| • Graduate Research and Creative Scholar Award, Western Michigan University,
Spring 2015. | (\$100) |

Professional Membership and Affiliations

- American Philosophical Association (Member)
- International Society for Environmental Ethics (Member)
- Philosophers for Sustainability (Member)
- South Carolina Society of Philosophy (Member)
- Philosophy of Animal Minds and Behavior Association (Affiliate)
- Society for the Study of Ethics and Animals (Affiliate)
- Animals and Society Institute (Affiliate)

Professional References

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