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, Fall '25 – Present.
  - Conducts applied environmental ethics and public policy research.
  - Manages grant-education programming, technical assistance, and student-community partnerships with state agencies and nonprofits.
- Bridge Humanities Teaching Postdoctoral Fellow, Fall '24 – Spring '25.
  - Taught 4/4 of SAEL200: Social Advocacy and Ethical Life.

Education

Ph. D. Philosophy, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, Spring '24.
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, Spring '15.

B.A. Philosophy with Minor in Political Science and Minor in Ethics, Values, and Society, Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, MI, Spring '13.

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*, 2025, 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 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, Fall '26. (Co-Presentation with Dr. Matthew Kisner, University of South Carolina)
- "Promoting the Flourishing of Animal Companions," *Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress*, University of Colorado, Fall '25.
- "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, Spring '25. (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, Spring '25. (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, Spring '25.
- "Extending Moral Partiality to Non-Human Animals," *Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress*, University of Colorado, Fall '24.
- Panelist on Citizen Science in Practice, *Society for Philosophy of Science in Practice*, University of South Carolina, Spring '24.*
- "Taking Partiality Seriously: Extending Moral Partiality to Non-Human Animals," *Queen Street Symposium*, University of South Carolina, Spring '24.*
- "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, Spring '24.
- "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, Fall '22.
- "Special Obligations to Animal Companions: The Parent-Child Relationship," *Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress*, University of Colorado, Fall '22.
- "Partiality and Animal Companions," *Society for the Study of Ethics and Animals 2021 Virtual Colloquium Series*, Fall '21.*
- "Can Utilitarian or Rights-Based Approaches Justify Veganism?," *Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress*, University of Colorado, Fall '19.
- "Aristotle's Conception of Justice: The Standard and Bifunctional Accounts," *South Carolina Society for Philosophy*, University of South Carolina, Spring '19.

Commentaries

- Comments on Jonathan Ichikawa's "A Euthyphro Problem for Consent Theory," *Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress*, University of Colorado, Boulder, Fall '23.
- Comments on Brendan Cline's "Designing Species," *Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress*, University of Colorado, Boulder, Fall '21.
- Comments on Tommy Graves's "Permissive Cases and Conciliationism Are Friends," *8th Annual Western Michigan University Graduate Philosophy Conference*, Western Michigan University, Fall '14.

- Comments on Patrick Cronin's "Abduction, Induction, and Reduction," *Western Michigan University Graduate Philosophy Workshop*, Western Michigan University, Fall '14.
- 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, Fall '13.

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

- Nominating Committee Member, International Society for Environmental Ethics, Spring '26 – Present.
- Assistant Director, Grant Readiness, Empowerment, and Advocacy Training (GREAT), Fall '25 – Present.
- Advisory Board Member, Building Environmental Action for Community Opportunities and Networking (BEACON), Fall '25 – Present.
- Session Chair, *Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress*, University of Colorado, Fall '19, '22, and '25.
- Assistant Editor, Daily Nous, Summer '23 – Fall '23.
- Web Design, Department of Philosophy, University of South Carolina, Summer '23 – Fall '23.

- Web Design, American Pragmatics Association, Summer ’23 – Fall ’23.
- Member, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, University of South Carolina, Fall ’21 – Summer ’23.
- Colloquia Committee Member, University of South Carolina, Fall ’19 – Spring ’23.
- Graduate Student Representative, University of South Carolina, Fall ’19 – Spring ’20.
- Conference Co-Organizer, *Annual Western Michigan University Philosophy Graduate Conference*, Western Michigan University, Fall ’14.

Grants and Fellowships

- Luce Environmental Ethics in Practice Fellowship, University of South Carolina, Fall ’25 – Present. ($100,000)
- Bridge Humanities Teaching Fellowship, University of South Carolina, Fall ’24 – Spring ’25. ($45,000)
- Travel Grant, Graduate College, University of South Carolina, Summer ’24. ($500)
- Russell J. and Dorothy S. Bilinski Dissertation Fellowship, University of South Carolina, Fall ’22 – Spring ’23. ($40,000)
- Travel Grant, Graduate College, University of South Carolina, Summer ’19. ($500)

Awards and Certificates

- Richard Greener Graduate Student Award, University of South Carolina, Spring ’22. ($250)
- Center for Teaching Excellence Certification: Teaching Online for Graduate Students, University of South Carolina, Fall ’21.
- Graduate Teaching Award, University of South Carolina, Spring ’21. ($100)
- Graduate Research and Creative Scholar Award, Western Michigan University, Spring ’15. ($100)

Professional Membership and Affiliations

- American Philosophical Association (Member)
- International Society for Environmental Ethics (Nominating Committee 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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