

Blake L. Ginsburg

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Areas of Specialization

Environmental & Animal Philosophy, Feminist Philosophy, Continental Philosophy

Areas of Competence

Social & Political Philosophy, Bioethics, Philosophy of Technology, Trauma Studies

Education

Michigan State University:

- Dual Major Ph.D. in Philosophy | Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior (EEB), in progress
Cumulative GPA: 4.00; Philosophy GPA: 4.00; EEB GPA: 4.00
- Graduate Specialization in Animal Studies: Social Science and Humanities Perspectives, Spring 2020
- Graduate Specialization in Women's & Gender Studies, in progress
- Graduate Certificate in College Teaching, in progress
- School of Social Work: Trauma Certificate Program, in progress

University of Montana:

- Graduate Certificate in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Fall 2017, *High Honors*
- M.A. in Philosophy (Concentration: Environmental Philosophy), Spring 2018, *High Honors*
Cumulative GPA: 4.00, Philosophy GPA: 4.00, WGSS GPA: 4.00

MA Thesis: *The Ethosophy of the Grizzly Man: Timothy Treadwell's Three Ethologies*
(<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/etd/11229/>)

California State University, Fullerton:

- B.A. in Philosophy (Concentration: Moral, Legal, and Social Philosophy for the Professions), *Cum Laude*, Spring 2015
- B.S. in Biological Science (Concentration: Biodiversity, Ecology, and Conservation Biology), *Cum Laude*, Spring 2015
Cumulative GPA: 3.54, Philosophy GPA: 3.92, Biological Science GPA: 3.34

Current Research

While many of my projects are multidisciplinary and intersectional in nature, my research interests fall into three broad categories that frequently overlap with one another:

1. Animal & environmental philosophy:

- The significance and ethical appropriateness of interactive relationships between humans and other-than-human predators
- The ethical dimensions of eating and being eaten
- The epistemic and transformative value of ethological practice
- The value of ethology for rewilding projects
- Non-anthropocentric approaches to philosophy of communication
- Trans-species trauma, fear, and healing
- Trans-species mental health and attachment theory
- Historical trauma, Jewishness, and animality in the wake of the Holocaust
- The ethical dimensions of relationships between humans and urban/synurbic other-than-human animals

2. Feminist philosophy & gender studies:

- Women's bodybuilding as a mode of resistance against patriarchal values
- The material, conceptual, and cultural consequences of gendered training methods and other forms of gender performativity in gym spaces

- How the anthropocentrism of muscle culture might be subverted and challenged using an approach informed by ecofeminist philosophy, animal studies, and disability studies
- How anthropocentric bias can and should be challenged by feminist epistemologists

3. Philosophy of technology:

- How technology has affected gym spaces and muscle culture
- How technology is used in factory farms to conceptually and materially render animals

Field Research Experience

1. Field research trip to Mojave National Preserve Desert Studies Center, Barstow, CA, Fall 2010
 - Gained experience collecting data on desert plants and animals
 - Analyzed the collected data as part of a larger laboratory project for Biol 171 course
2. Field research trip to Rocky Intertidal Habitat, Dana Point, CA, Fall 2010
 - Used transects and quadrats to measure abundance of marine invertebrates
3. Field research trip to Mojave National Preserve Desert Studies Center, Barstow, CA, Spring 2012
 - Conducted research project on activity and vocalization frequency of desert birds
 - Analyzed the data and presented results to class and professors
4. Field research trip to Rocky Intertidal Habitat, Dana Point, CA, Spring 2012
 - Utilized quadrats and transects to measure abundance of marine invertebrates
5. Volunteer field research at Cabrillo Marine Aquarium in San Pedro, CA, Spring 2013
 - Collected data on the abundance and distribution of intertidal invertebrates
 - Contributed to long-term research tracking population fluctuations of invertebrate species
6. Field research at Friday Harbor Laboratories (University of Washington), 2014
 - Performed independent research on Steller sea lions, harlequin ducks, and black oystercatchers as part of a marine birds and mammals summer course
 - Presented research to a class and two professors who specialize in the biology of marine birds and mammals
 - Wrote a formal scientific paper on the findings of my research
 - Advised by Dr. Eric M. Anderson (British Columbia Institute of Technology, Ecological Restoration Program) and Dr. W. Breck Tyler (UC Santa Cruz, Institute of Marine Sciences)
7. Field research at Mojave National Preserve (with Blueprint Earth), Spring 2015
 - Volunteered to conduct research at the Mojave National Preserve
 - Studied plants and animals of the study site
 - Recorded atmospheric and hydrological data
8. Black bear behavioral research at Kilham Bear Center in Lyme, NH, Summer 2020
 - Observed and recorded behavioral data on wild-living black bears at two field sites in Lyme, NH
 - Assisted black bear and giant panda specialist, Dr. Benjamin Kilham in his long-term research on black bear matrilineal hierarchies and social behavior
 - Developed familiarity with more than thirty black bears and monitored their behavior and social relationships
9. Duck population research, New Hampshire Fish & Game, NH, Summer 2020
 - Assisted NH Fish & Game biologists with wood duck population research
 - Observed, fed, and patterned wild ducks at a field provisioning site near Lyme, NH
 - Set up and monitored trail cameras, blinds, and bownets (a spring-loaded net trap), to temporarily capture ducks for banding
 - Trapped and banded ducks to be studied as part of a larger duck population study

Academic Awards

1. William H. Alamshah Philosophical Essay Prize Contest—2nd Place

(Essay: Muscular Women: Deterritorializing the Human Form), CSU Fullerton, 2015 (\$200)

2. Louise Greene/Elizabeth Smith Graduate Scholarship in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies—Award Recipient, University of Montana, 2017 (\$800)
3. Teaching Assistantship, Philosophy, University of Montana, 2016-2018 (\$9,000 per year for 2 years)
4. Teaching Assistantship, Philosophy, Michigan State University, 2018-Current (Approx. 18,000 per year for 5 years)
5. Nominated for *Somers Excellence in Teaching Award*, Michigan State University, 2018-2019
 - Award given annually to teaching assistants who have demonstrated a commitment to excellence, innovation, and creativity in undergraduate teaching in courses offered by the Center for Integrative Studies in the Arts and Humanities at Michigan State University.
6. Animal Studies Fellowship Award, Michigan State University, Spring 2019 (\$2,476)
 - Award given annually to support travel and scholarship in the field of Animal Studies
7. Philosophy Scholars Fellowship Award, Michigan State University, Summer 2019 (\$2,000)
 - Award given annually to support summer scholarship under the guidance of a faculty mentor
 - Advisor: Kyle P. Whyte
 - Paper: Timothy Treadwell's Social Ethology
8. Animal Studies Fellowship Award, Michigan State University, Spring 2020 (\$1,500)
 - Award given annually to support travel and scholarship in the field of Animal Studies
9. Engaged Philosophy Internship Program Fellowship, Michigan State University, Summer 2020 (\$8,000)
 - Fellowship award granted to support graduate students who would like to do engaged philosophical work with a partner organization in their field
 - Interned at The Kilham Bear Center in Lyme, NH
10. College Online Learning Academy (COLA) Fellowship, Michigan State University, Summer 2021 (\$1,000)
 - Fellowship award granted to support graduate students who are passionate about virtual instruction and undergraduate teaching excellence
11. Interdisciplinary Inquiry & Teaching (IIT) Fellowship, Michigan State University, 2021-2022 (\$5,000)
 - Fellowship award granted to support graduate students who engage in interdisciplinary research and teaching. Fellows develop teaching and learning projects within James Madison College, an undergraduate residential college at MSU.

Selected Presentations

1. Acacia Conference, CSU Fullerton, March 2015
 - Presented research on the education and experience of young scientists in academia*
2. California American Studies Conference, CSU Fullerton, April 2015
 - Presented research on the education and experience of young scientists in academia*
3. Philosophy of Science Association Biennial Meeting, Seattle, Washington, November 2018
 - Presented a paper titled, "Feminist Epistemology and Anthropocentrism: Addressing Anthropocentric Bias within Urban Ecology and Cognitive Ethology"*
4. Graduate Teaching Assistant Preparation & Orientation 2021, MSU, Summer 2021
 - Co-presented a "Pedagogy Workshop" session title, "Getting Started: Your First Day of Teaching" that provided opportunities for new GTAs to learn about effective communication strategies, community-building activities, assessment of student learning using Bloom's taxonomy, and strategies for providing students with constructive feedback.*

Selected Service at Cal State Fullerton

1. Philosophy Club Officer, 2014-2015
2. Helped faculty schedule and plan philosophy symposia, 2014-2015
3. Helped organize Philosophy Club sponsored debate, 2014

Selected Service at University of Montana

1. Philosophy Tutor, Study Jam Group Study, Spring 2018

Selected Service at Michigan State University

1. Graduate representative for MSU Philosophy Department's Committee of the Whole (CoW), Fall 2018-Spring 2019
2. Assisted Dr. Paul B. Thompson in facilitating an "Early Ethical Assessment Workshop" regarding the introduction and application of an agricultural technology that is currently in development, Fall 2018
3. Advisor for undergraduate sports-focused debate and public speaking club, Sports Perspectives, Fall 2019-current
4. Graduate representative for MSU Philosophy Department's Undergraduate Committee (UGC), Fall 2020-Spring 2021
5. Graduate representative for MSU Philosophy Department's Graduate Committee (GC), Fall 2020-Spring 2021
6. Graduate representative for MSU Philosophy Department's Undergraduate Committee (UGC), Fall 2021-Spring 2022
7. *From Silo to Spoon* Manuscript Workshop, Dr. Paul B. Thompson, Winter 2022
-Attended a workshop with philosophy of food and food studies scholars to workshop Dr. Thompson's book manuscript
8. Graduate Teaching Assistant Program (GTAP) Advisory Group representative, Spring 2021-current
-professional development and teaching development advisory group for the graduate school
-comprised of graduate assistant representatives from across the university who advise the graduate school on matters related to grad student professional development and teaching development

Academic Affiliations and Reading Groups at Michigan State University

1. Decolonial Theory Reading Group, member, Fall 2018-Spring 2019
2. MSU Animal Studies Discourse Society & Reading Group, member, Fall 2018-Spring 2020
3. Animals Studies Graduate Group, Fall 2018-current
4. Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) Teaching & Learning Community, Fall 2020-current
5. Graduate Teaching Assistant Program (GTAP) Advisory Group (through Graduate School), Spring 2021-current
6. Interdisciplinary Inquiry & Teaching (IIT) Fellows Program, James Madison College, Spring 2021-current
7. Ecology, Evolution, & Behavior (EEB) Graduate Group (EGG), Spring 2021-current
8. MSU Trauma Services and Training Network (MSU TSTN) Learning Community, Spring 2022-current

Selected Community Service

1. Volunteer High School/Kid's Club Wrestling Coach in Simi Valley, CA, 2009-2016
2. Volunteer Weight Training Coach in Simi Valley, CA, 2009-2016
3. Emergency Room Volunteer at Corona Regional Medical Center in Corona, CA, 2011
4. Emergency Room Volunteer at Palmdale Regional Medical Center in Palmdale, CA, 2012
5. Helped found ethics committee at Palmdale Regional Medical Center in Palmdale, CA, 2012

Teaching Experience

1. Tutored students in biology and earth science, 2009-2010
2. T.A., Philosophy 290: Ancient Greek Philosophy, Professor Amy Coplan (Chair of CSUF Philosophy Department)—Cal State Fullerton, 2014
3. Substitute Teacher, Elementary through High school, Simi Valley Unified School District, 2016
4. T.A., Philosophy 323: Environmental Ethics: Global Climate Change and Visions of a Sustainable Future, Professors Katie Nelson and Pat Burke—Wild Rockies Field Institute, 2016
5. T.A., Philosophy 101Y: Introduction to Philosophy, Professor Fred McGlynn—University of Montana, 2016
6. T.A., Philosophy 102Y: Introduction to Existentialism, Professor Fred McGlynn—University of Montana, 2017

7. T.A., Native American Studies 304: Native American Beliefs and Philosophy, Professor Ted Van Alst—University of Montana, 2017
8. T.A., Philosophy 110E: Introduction to Ethics, Professor Armond Duwell—University of Montana, 2017
9. T.A., Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies 263S: Social and Political Perspectives on Women, Men, and Sexuality, Professor Beth Hubble—University of Montana, 2017
10. T.A., Philosophy 112E: Introduction to Environmental Ethics, Professor Christopher Preston—University of Montana, 2018
11. T.A., Integrative Studies in Arts and Humanities 207: Literature, Culture, and Identities (I) (Ideas of Race and Identity), Professor Eric Lambert—Michigan State University, 2018
12. T.A., Integrative Studies in Arts and Humanities 206: Self, Society, and Technology (D) (Responsible Science in Democracy), Professor Heather Douglas—Michigan State University, 2019
13. Instructor, Philosophy 344: Ethical Issues in Health Care, Michigan State University, 2019
14. T.A., Integrative Studies in Arts and Humanities 206: Self, Society, and Technology (D) (Responsible Science in Democracy), Professor Heather Douglas—Michigan State University, 2020
15. T.A., Integrative Studies in Arts and Humanities 231A: Human Values in Arts and Humanities (D) (Ultimate Reality and the Meaning of Life), Professor Frederick Rauscher—Michigan State University, 2020
16. T.A., Integrative Studies in Arts and Humanities 206: Self, Society, and Technology (D) (World Hunger and Food Security), Professor Fred Gifford—Michigan State University, Spring 2021
17. Instructor, Philosophy 342: Environmental Ethics, Michigan State University, Summer 2021 (virtual)
18. T.A., Integrative Studies in Arts and Humanities 206: Self, Society, and Technology (D) (World Hunger and Food Security), Professor Fred Gifford—Michigan State University, Fall 2021
19. Instructor, Philosophy 344: Ethical Issues in Health Care, Michigan State University, Spring 2022

Work Experience

1. Anchor Ranch, June-August 2006-2010
 - Ranch hand, animal caretaker, hay bucker on horse retirement ranch
 - Fed and managed animals, maintained ranch, bailed and transported hay
2. Starbucks, June 2011-November 2011
 - Cashier and Barista
 - Developed skills in multi-tasking and working with others
 - Experience in customer service
3. Regal Medical Group, June 2015-September 2015
 - IT Assistant
 - Entered data, moved computers and other equipment, deployed workstations
 - Responsible for management of electronic waste
4. Simi Valley Unified School District, February 2016-June 2016
 - Substitute Teacher
 - Taught elementary through high school
5. Wrestling Mindset, May 2016-current
 - Certified Mindset Coach
 - Mentor for student-athletes
 - Over the phone mindset training aimed at dealing with competition anxiety, improving athletic performance, improving attitude, excelling academically, maintaining life balance, etc.
6. Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Montana, August 2016-May 2018
 - Served as a TA for six unique courses in the Departments of Philosophy, Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies, and Native American Studies
 - Graded exams, essays, and other assignments
 - Facilitated classroom discussions, conducted review sessions, held office hours, and was involved in course administration
7. Graduate Teaching Assistant, Michigan State University, August 2018-current
 - Served as a TA for three Integrative Studies in the Arts & Humanities courses

- Instructor & Faculty of Record for Ethical Issues in Health Care Philosophy Course
- Designed course curricula, activities, and assignments
- Graded exams, essays, and other assignments
- Led recitation sections, facilitated classroom discussions, conducted review sessions and writing workshops, held office hours
- Responsible for course administration, assignment and rubric construction, and resolution of student group conflicts.

8. Social Services Project Coordinator, High Desert Medical Group, June 2019-August 2019

- Served as a designated researcher to collect empirical data regarding the efficaciousness and cost-effectiveness of potential depression intervention programs
- Presented research to High Desert providers, social workers, and administrators
- Made recommendations regarding effective means of screening patients and connecting them to appropriate interventions based on their lifestyles and interests
- Created and coordinated screening methods and intervention programs for depressed patients
- Worked with the City of Lancaster, local businesses, and national organizations to make viable and affordable evidence-based therapy services, support groups, and lifestyle intervention programs readily available to military veterans & High Desert Patients
- Designed spreadsheets and research methodologies for a long-term study of the efficaciousness of various intervention programs for depressed patients
- Produced a research paper and blueprint for maintaining and expanding depression intervention programs

9. Black Bear Rehabilitation and Behavioral Research Intern, Kilham Bear Center, July 2020-October 2020

- Responsible for rehabilitating and caring for (e.g., feeding, cleaning enclosures, providing medical care, providing enrichment for) black bear cubs that will be released into the wild at 18 months of age
- Repaired existing enclosures, built new enclosures, and helped maintain and upkeep KBC facilities
- Assisted in conducting necropsies on local wild bears to determine cause of death
- Observed and collected data on wild black bears to study social behavior and matrilineal hierarchy at two field sites with Dr. Ben Kilham
- Worked closely with Vermont and New Hampshire Fish & Game biologists and wardens to facilitate the capture, transport, rehabilitation, and release of cubs

Other Relevant Experience

1. Shadowed Dr. Vincent Bennett at Palmdale Regional Medical Center, 2012
 - Discussed medical issues at length in a one-on-one setting
 - Gained practical experience and knowledge pertaining to the field of medicine
2. Mental Health First Aid Certificate, Mental Health First Aid USA, National Council of Behavioral Health, 2019, valid through June 14th, 2022
 - Trained to provide initial help to people experiencing problems such as depression, anxiety disorders, psychosis, and substance use disorders

Selected Athletic Achievements

1. Team Captain of Royal High School Wrestling Team, 2009
2. NCAA Division 1 starter for CSUF wrestling team at 165 pounds, 2009-2010
3. University Nationals Wrestling Championships, Greco-Roman All-American, 7th Place at 70 KG, 2010
4. INBA Natural Olympia Bodybuilding Competition, 2nd Place Novice Men (Team USA member), 2012
5. Starting Flanker for CSUF men's rugby team, 2012-2013
6. INBA Mr. & Ms. Hollywood Natural Bodybuilding Competition, 1st place Overall (Professional Qualifier), 2013
7. INBA World Cup Bodybuilding Competition, 2nd place, Open Men, 2013

Undergraduate Major Courses Taken at Cal State Fullerton:

Philosophy (51 units), 3.92 GPA

1. Phil 100 - Intro to Philosophy, 3 units, A-
2. Phil 106 - Intro to Logic, 3 units, A
3. Phil 290 - Ancient Greek Philosophy, 3 units, A
4. Phil 300 - Rationalism and Empiricism, 3 units, A
5. Phil 301 - Kant and the 19th Century, 3 units, A
6. Phil 313 - Environmental Ethics, 3 units, A
7. Phil 314 - Medical Ethics, 3 units, A
8. Phil 315 - Philosophical Argument & Writing, 3 units, A
9. Phil 323 - Existentialism, 3 units, A

10. Phil 343 - Philosophy of Feminism, 3 units, A+
11. Phil 345 - Social and Political Philosophy, 3 units, B+
12. Phil 368 - 1st Course Symbolic Logic, 3 units, A+
13. Phil 379 - American Philosophy, 3 units, A
14. Phil 382 - Marx and Marxism, 3 units, A
15. Phil 399 - Directed Study (ancient Greek Philosophy), 3 units, A
16. Phil 480 - Seminar in the History of Philosophy (Critical Animal Studies), 3 units, A
17. Phil 493 - Internship Ethics & Society (Hospital Ethics Committee), 3 units, A

Biological Science (48 units), 3.34 GPA

1. Biol 171 - Evolution/Biodiversity, 5 units
2. Biol 172 - Cellular Basis of Life, 5 units
3. Biol 273 - Genetics and Molecular Biology, 5 units
4. Biol 274 - Principles of Physiology/Ecology, 5 units
5. Biol 314 - Population and Community Ecology, 3 units
6. Biol 322 - Human Behavioral Ecology, 3 units

7. Biol 325 - Principles of Evolution, 3 units
8. Biol 362 - Mammalian Physiology, 4 units
9. Biol 456 - Hormones and Behavior, 3 units
10. Biol 466 - Behavioral Ecology, 3 units
11. Biol 480 - Advances in Evolution & Ecology (Urban Ecology), 3 units
12. Fish 492 - Ecology and Conservation of Marine Birds and Mammals, 6 units (through University of Washington)

Graduate Courses Taken at University of Montana:

Philosophy (43 units), 4.0 GPA

1. PHL 464 - Kant, 3 units, Audit
2. PHL 468 - 20th Century Continental Philosophy: Merleau-Ponty, 3 units, A
3. PHL 468 - 20th Century Continental Philosophy: Contemporary Critical Theory, 3 units, Audit

4. PHL 501 - Philosophy of Technology: Science, Technology, and Culture, 3 units, A
5. PHL 502 - Topics in Value Theory: Secularism, Identity, and Enchantment, 3 units, A

6. PHL 504 - Topics in Environmental Philosophy: Wilderness, Wildness, and Culture, 3 units, A
7. PHL 504 - Topics in Environmental Philosophy: Critical Animal Studies, 3 units, A
8. PHL 505 - Issues in the Anthropocene, 3 units, A
9. PHL 507 - Foundations of Ecology, 3 units, A
10. PHL 510 - Philosophy Forum, 1 unit, A
11. PHL 510 - Philosophy Forum, 1 unit, A

Other Courses (9 units), 4.0 GPA

1. NASX 595 - Special Topics: Native American Beliefs & Philosophy, 3 units A
2. WGSS 596 - Independent Study: Feminist Theory and Methods, 3 units A

Graduate Courses Taken at Michigan State University:

Philosophy (27 units), 4.0 GPA

1. PHL 800 - Proseminar in Philosophy: Philosophy of Communication, 3 units, A
2. PHL 801 - Seminar in Teaching Philosophy, 3 units, A
3. PHL 820 - Seminar in Continental Philosophy: Continental Feminisms and the Politics of Revolt, 3 units, A
4. PHL 850 - Seminar in Social & Political Philosophy: Black & Indigenous Political Philosophy, 3 units, Audit

Other Courses (21 units), 4.0 GPA

1. AL 883 - Practicum in Blended and Online Learning, 3 units, A
2. IBIO 822 - Topics in Ethology and Behavioral Ecology (Mammalian Societies), 3 units, A
3. IBIO 830 - Statistical Methods in Ecology and Evolution: Part I, 3 units, A
4. IBIO 831 - Statistical Methods in Ecology and Evolution: Part II, 3 units, A

12. PHL 591 - Special Topics: Environmental Philosophy, 3 units, A
13. PHL 592 - Independent Study: The Welfare of Democracy, 3 units, A
14. PHL 592 - Independent Study: Rewilding and Deextinction, 1 unit, A
15. PHL 598 - Internship: Wild Rockies Field Institute, 3 units, A
16. PHL 599 - Thesis, 1 unit, CR
17. PHL 599 - Thesis, 3 units, CR

3. WGSS 596 - Independent Study: LGBTQ Studies: Theory & Application, 3 units, A

5. PHL 860 - Seminar in Metaphysics and Epistemology: On the Purposes of Epistemology, 3 units, A
6. PHL 870 - Seminar in Philosophy of Health Care: Philosophy of Population Health, 3 units, in progress
7. PHL 890 - Independent Study: Indigenous Metaphysics & Epistemologies, 3 units, A
8. PHL 999 - Doctoral Dissertation Research, 9 units, in progress

5. IBIO/PLB 849 - Evolutionary Biology, 3 units, A
6. SOC 840 - Animals and Social Transformations, 3 units, A
7. SOC 890 - Independent Study: Research Practicum in Animal Studies, 3 units, A