

Josh Wilburn

Department of Philosophy
Wayne State University
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Academic Employment

Wayne State University

2016-Present Associate Professor
2013-2016 Assistant Professor

University Of Victoria

2011-2013 Assistant Professor
2010-2011 Lecturer

Education

2011 Ph.D., Philosophy
Princeton University, Philosophy Department
Dissertation: *The Ally of Reason: Plato on the Spirited Part of the Soul*
Advisors: John M. Cooper and Alexander Nehamas

2005 B.A. *summa cum laude* (4.0 GPA), Philosophy with Honors and Religious Studies
The University of Texas at Austin
Thesis: *Pyrrhonism and Belief*
Advisor: Paul Woodruff

Research

Areas of Specialization: Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy

Areas of Competence: Political Philosophy, Social Epistemology, History and Philosophy of Race and Racism, African American Philosophy

Languages

Reading fluency or proficiency: Ancient Greek, Latin, German, French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese

Publications

Books

2021 *The Political Soul: Plato on Thumos, Spirited Motivation and the City* (Oxford: Oxford University Press).

Journal Articles and Book Chapters

Forthcoming "‘Feminizing’ the City: Plato on Women, Masculinity, and *Thumos*" (co-authored with Kirsty Ironside), *Hypatia*.

Forthcoming "Gorgias of Leontini and Plato’s *Gorgias*," in C. Shaw (ed.), *Cambridge Critical Guide to the Gorgias* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).

Publications (cont.)

Journal Articles and Book Chapters (cont.)

- 2023 "Gorgias on Knowledge and the Powerlessness of Logos," *Humanities* 12.
- 2016 "Plato's Protagoras the Hedonist," *Classical Philology* 111.3: 224-44.
- 2015 "The Problem of Alcibiades: Plato on Moral Education and the Many," *Oxford Studies in Ancient Philosophy* 49: 1-36.
- 2015 "Courage and the Spirited Part of the Soul in Plato's *Republic*," *Philosopher's Imprint* 15.26: 1-21.
- 2014 "Akrasia and the Rule of Appetite in Plato's *Republic* and *Protagoras*," *Journal of Ancient Philosophy* 8.2: 57-91.
- 2014 "The Spirited Part of the Soul in Plato's *Timaeus*," *Journal of the History of Philosophy* 52.4: 627-54.
- 2014 "Is Appetite Ever 'Persuaded'? An Alternative Reading of *Republic* 554c-d," *History of Philosophy Quarterly* 31.3: 195-208.
- 2013 "Moral Education and the Spirited Part of the Soul in Plato's *Laws*," *Oxford Studies in Ancient Philosophy* 45: 63-102.
- 2013 "Tripartition and the Causes of Criminal Behavior in *Laws* ix," *Ancient Philosophy* 33 (1): 111-34.
- 2012 "Akrasia and Self-Rule in Plato's *Laws*," *Oxford Studies in Ancient Philosophy* 43: 25-53.

Encyclopedia Entries

- 2018 "Gorgias of Leontini," *Oxford Classical Dictionary*. Oxford University Press. DOI: 10.1093/acrefore/9780199381135.013.2869

Book Reviews

- 2019 Review of Joshua Weinstein, *Plato's Threefold City and Soul*, *Polis* 36: 586-92.
- 2016 Review of Olivier Renaut, *Platon, Le Médiation des Emotions: L'éducation du Thymos dans des Dialogues*, *Journal of Hellenic Studies* 136: 1-2
- 2013 Review of Jill Gordon, *Plato's Erotic World: From Cosmic Origins to Human Death*, *Notre Dame Philosophical Review*
- 2012 Review of Rachel Barney, Tad Brennan, and Charles Brittain (eds.), *Plato and the Divided Self*, *Philosophy in Review* 32.6: 439-42.
- 2011 Review of Sandra Peterson, *Socrates and Philosophy in the Dialogues of Plato*, *Philosophy in Review* 31.6: 449-51.
- 2011 Review of Alex Long (ed., trans.) and David Sedley (ed.), *Plato, Meno and Phaedo*, *Notre Dame Philosophical Review*.

Works in Progress

- TBD "Plato on the Physiology and Psychology of Natural Character Types" (Invited chapter, *Ancient Philosophy of Race and Ethnicity*, eds. John Proios and Patricia Marechal).

Courses Taught

Wayne State University

- Ancient Greek Medicine and Psychology (PHI 2140)—Winter 2020, Fall 2020, Winter 2021, Fall 2021, Fall 2022
- Lovecraft Country* and African American Philosophy (PHI 5800)—Fall 2021
- Philosophy of Race and Racism (PHI 5210)—Fall 2020

Courses Taught (cont.)

Wayne State University

Plato and Black Feminist Thought (HON 4200)—Fall 2019
Plato (PHI 5410)—Winter 2015, Winter 2017, Winter 2019
Aristotle (PHI 5420)—Winter 2014, Winter 2018
Ancient Greek Philosophy (PHI 2100)—Fall 2013, Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Fall 2017
Reason and Desire (PHI 5800/HON 4200)—Summer 2017
Critical Thinking (PHI 1050)—Fall 2015, Winter 2016, Winter 2017
The Presocratics and Sophists (PHI 5400)—Winter 2016
Introduction to Philosophy (PHI 1010)—Fall 2013, Fall 2014

University of Michigan (Visiting Instructor)

Plato (PHIL 405)—Winter 2017

University of Victoria

Plato's *Republic* in Context (PHIL 490/500)—Spring 2013
Early Greek Thought (PHIL 379)—Fall 2012
The Epicureans, Stoics, and Skeptics (PHIL 390)—Spring 2011, Spring 2012
Introduction to Philosophy (PHIL 100)—Fall 2011, Spring 2011, Fall 2012, Spring 2012
Plato (PHIL 301)—Fall 2010, Fall 2011
Akrasia, Weakness of Will, and Compulsion (PHIL 490/500)—Fall 2011
The Life and Times of Socrates (PHIL 383)—Spring 2011
Plato's Theory of the Soul (PHIL 490/500)—Fall 2010

Presentations

Conference and Colloquium Presentations

Jan. 2023 "Author Meets Critic: Josh Wilburn, *The Political Soul*," 2023 Eastern Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association
Sept. 2021 "Feminizing the City: Plato on Women, Masculinity, and the *Polis*," University of Victoria
May 2021 "Women, Androgyny, and *Thumos* in Plato's *Republic*," Wayne State University Plato Workshop
April 2018 "The Two Faces of Spiritedness: Plato on *Thumos* and the *Oikeion*," Emotions in Plato, Université Paris Nanterre
Feb. 2018 "Friendship and *Thumos* in Plato's *Republic*," 2018 Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association
Oct. 2017 "Friendship and the Tripartite Soul in Plato's *Republic*," Western Michigan University
April 2017 "Thumos and the *Oikeion*," Cooperfest: A Conference in Honor of John M. Cooper, UCLA
Jan. 2016 "Gorgias and the Orators on the Powerlessness of Speech," Ancient Philosophy Circle, Michigan State University
March 2015 "Plato and Gorgias on the Power of Appearances," Annual Toronto Workshop in Ancient Philosophy, University of Toronto
July 2014 "The Problem of Alcibiades: Plato on Moral Education and the Many," Lewis & Clark College

Presentations (cont.)

- May 2014 “‘Preserving’ Reason: Courage and the Spirited Part of the Soul in Plato’s *Republic*,” Second Canadian Colloquium for Ancient Philosophy, University of British Columbia
- April 2014 “‘Preserving’ Reason: Courage and the Spirited Part of the Soul in Plato’s *Republic*,” 37th Ancient Philosophy Workshop, University of Pennsylvania
- Oct. 2012 “*Akrasia* in the *Republic*: Does It Actually Matter?” International Plato Society: Plato’s Moral Psychology, University of Michigan
- May 2012 “Moral Education and the Spirited Part of the Soul in Plato’s *Laws*,” First Canadian Colloquium for Ancient Philosophy, University of Alberta
- Sept. 2011 “Tripartition and the Causes of Criminal Behavior in Plato’s *Laws*,” Northwest Ancient Philosophy Workshop, University of Victoria
- March 2011 “The Ally of Reason: Plato on the Spirited Part of the Soul,” 34th Ancient Philosophy Workshop, Washington University in St. Louis

Commentator

- April 2016 *Comments on J. Clerk Shaw, *Plato’s Anti-Hedonism and the Protagoras*, 2016 Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association
- Feb. 2014 *Comments on Susan Sauvé Meyer, “Virtue and Self-Mastery in Plato’s *Laws*,” 2014 Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association
- June 2013 Comments on C. Barry, “Socrates and Oedipus: Plato’s Philosophical Transformation of a Tragic Paradigm,” Canadian Philosophical Association 57th Annual Congress
- Feb. 2013 *Comments on David Wolfsdorf, “Protagoras on the Unity and Diversity of the Good,” The 18th Arizona Colloquium in Ancient Philosophy
- April 2011 Comments on Emily Austin, “Fools, Malice, and Public Refutation in the *Philebus*,” 2011 Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association
- Dec. 2011 *Comments on Gabriel Richardson Lear, “Plato on the Power of Beautiful Speech,” Princeton University Classical Philosophy Conference
- May 2011 Comments on Mark Ralkowski, “The Politics of the *Phaedo*,” West Coast Workshop in Ancient Philosophy

*Indicates Invited Appearance

Awards and Honors

- 2018-2019 Career Development Chair, Wayne State University
- 2015-2016 University Research Grant, Wayne State University
- 2015 Wayne State University Academy of Scholars Junior Faculty Award
- 2014 National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar Fellow
- 2009-2010 Princeton University Center for Human Values Graduate Prize Fellowship
- 2009-2010 Charlotte Elizabeth Proctor Honorific Fellowship, Princeton University
- 2005-2010 Graduate School Summer Stipend, Princeton University
- 2005-2010 Graduate Fellowship, Princeton University
- 2008-2009 William G. Bowen Merit Fellowship
- 2007 Summer Language Study Grant, Princeton University
- 2005 Honors in Philosophy, The University of Texas at Austin
- 2005 Phi Beta Kappa

Service

Departmental Service

2022-Present	Department Chair, Philosophy
2014-2021	Director of Undergraduate Studies
2014-2015	Faculty Advisor, WSU Philosophy Club
2018-2020	MAP (Minorities and Philosophy) Faculty Supervisor
2019-2020	Search Committee Chair
2017-2018	Director of Graduate Studies
2017-2018	Director of Graduate Admissions
2017-2018	Search Committee Chair
2013-2018	Department Webmaster
2013-2014	Colloquium and Community Coordinator

Professional Service

2011-present	Journal Referee: <i>Journal of the History of Philosophy</i> , <i>Phoenix</i> , <i>Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie</i> , <i>The Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism</i> , <i>History of Philosophy Quarterly</i> , <i>Ancient Philosophy</i> , <i>Canadian Journal of Philosophy</i> , <i>Journal of Hellenic Studies</i>
2021	Session Chair, 2021 Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association
2014, 2015	Manuscript Referee: <i>Oxford University Press</i>
2013	Referee, Canadian Philosophical Association 57 th Annual Congress
2012	Session Chair, 2012 Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association

University Service

2022-present	WSU Humanities Center Advisory Board
2021-present	Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Advisory Board
2019, 2021	Career Development Chair Committee
2016-2017	General Education Reform Subcommittee
2015	College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Strategic Planning Committee

Professional Memberships

2012-Present	International Plato Society
2009-Present	American Philosophical Association