

JOSHUA PASCHAL, Ph.D.

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Experienced philosophy educator and generalist expert interested in AI fine-tuning, complex prompting, AI safety, and AI humanness, looking for real challenges at the cutting edge of current work. Open to permanent opportunities from interested parties looking for an experienced young educator, researcher, writer, and organizer. Always open to work across all domains.

EMPLOYMENT

<i>Independent Contractor</i>	2026-present
Mercor	May 2026-present
Generalist (multi-domain) expert and task reviewer for a large confidential project.	
Handshake	June 2026-present
Moral philosophy expert for Project Synesis II, a cutting-edge moral reasoning model focused on normative and applied ethical inquiries.	

James B. Nelson Dissertation Fellow, Indiana University Philosophy 2024-2026
2 years of research fellowship primarily dedicated to supporting my doctoral research in the philosophy of criminal law; also researched technology, AI, and environmental ethics.

Associate Instructor, Indiana University Philosophy 2019-2024
5 years total instructional experience: 2 years as sole instructor with full syllabus control and 3 years of assisting for large introductory lecture courses.

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Philosophy (minor in Law), Indiana University (Bloomington, IN) 2026
Dissertation: *Criminal Law and the Setting of Standards*
Committee: Marcia Baron, Matthew Adams, Nicholas Almendares, Tim O'Connor
M.A., Philosophy, Indiana University (Bloomington, IN) 2021
B.A., Philosophy, University of Mary Washington (Fredericksburg, VA) 2019

SELECTED WRITING

- [x3] *The Blog of the American Philosophy Association*
 - On Belonging in Grad School, April 2026 ([link](#))
 - On Secession in Political Philosophy, March 2025 ([link](#))
 - On AI and Philosophy Education, October 2024 ([link](#))
- "Combatting Hostility through Organizing: Indiana Graduate Workers Unionization and Strike," co-authored with Savannah Pearlman, *AAPT Studies in Pedagogy: Teaching in Hostile Contexts* (Special Issue), ed. Alida Liberman. ([link](#))

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- [x2] "Hate Crimes and the Construction of Protected Classes"
 - Invited Talk, Georgia College and State University, April 2026
 - Invited Talk, Fresno State (California State University), April 2026
- "Hate Crimes and the Promise of Liberal Democracy," *Pacific Meeting of the American Philosophical Association*, April 2025.
- Panelist on AI and Education at the Midwest Ethics Symposium at the Prindle Institute for Ethics, April 2024
- "Challenges of Justified Distrust for Contemporary Liberalism" *Politics, Philosophy, and Economics Society*, November 2023
- [x3] "Revisiting the Last Man and Human Chauvinism" (Environmental Philosophy)
- [x2] "Three Accounts of Justified Deplatforming" (Social Media Ethics)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Bloomington Faculty Council 2022-24

SAA (Graduate Worker) Representative at-large (2023-24).

SAA Affairs Committee (2022-24), co-chair (2023-24).

SAA Board of Review (2022-23). *Helped write multiple campus-level policies.*

University Graduate School Advisory Board 2023-24

Indiana Graduate Workers Coalition (Unrecognized IU Grad Union) 2021-24

Bargaining Coordinator (2023-24). *Official representative of union as a whole.*

Rights Officer (2022-23). *Workers' grievances resource officer.*

Strike Captain (2022-24). *Wrote around 100 pages of official guidance about graduate life, work, and direct action.*

Graduate Association of Students in Philosophy (Indiana University) 2019-25

President (2023-24). *Included serving on faculty hiring committees.*

Social Chair (2022-23).

Graduate Curriculum Advisor (2020-21).

Honor Council (University of Mary Washington) 2016-19

Secretary (2018-19)

Judging panelist on around 70 cases across three years.

INTERESTS AND SKILLS

Public-facing blogging ([hiatus](#)), avid album reviewer, MIDI sequencer, full Microsoft and Google Suite proficiency, broad AI competency, fantasy football fanatic