

Erik A. Anderson

Associate Professor of Philosophy
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Education

Ph.D. in Philosophy, University of Connecticut, 2001.

Dissertation: “Believers & Citizens: Religious Freedom in a Deliberative Democracy”

Dissertation Director: Diana T. Meyers

M.A. in Philosophy, University of Connecticut, 1995.

B.A. in Philosophy, University of Puget Sound, 1991.

Areas of Specialization

Social and Political Philosophy

Philosophy of Law

Ethics

Sexual Ethics

Areas of Competence

Philosophy of Religion

Epistemology

Logic

Intergroup Dialogue

Experience

Director of Curricular Initiatives, Intergroup Dialogue Program, Furman University,
2018-present.

Chair, Department of Philosophy, Furman University, 2019-present.

Associate Professor of Philosophy, Furman University, 2007-present.

Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Furman University, 2001-2007.

Publications

“A Comment on Rahel Jaeggi’s *Critique of Forms of Life*,” forthcoming in *Social Philosophy Today* (2021).

“Deliberative Sincerity and the Opacity of the Self,” *Journal of Social Philosophy*, Volume 51, Issue 3 (2020): 422-440.

“A Defense of the ‘Sterility Objection’ to the New Natural Lawyers’ Argument against Same Sex Marriage,” *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, Volume 16, Issue 4 (2013): 759-775.

“Religiously Conservative Citizens and the Ideal of Conscientious Engagement: A Comment on Wolterstorff and Eberle,” *Philosophia*, Volume 41, Issue 2 (2013): 411-427 (published with replies by Nicholas Wolterstorff and Christopher J. Eberle).

“The Paradox of Public Secularism: A Critical Assessment of Robert Audi’s *Religious Commitment and Secular Reason*,” *Faith and Philosophy* 23, no. 2 (2006): 137-155.

“Public Reason, State Neutrality, and the Recognition of Religious Differences under the Establishment Clause,” in *Civility and Its Discontents: Essays on Civic Virtue, Toleration, and Cultural Fragmentation*, edited by Christine Sistare (University of Kansas Press, 2004).

“Group Rights, Autonomy, and the Free Exercise of Religion,” in *Groups, Rights, and Democracy*, edited by Christine Sistare, Larry May, and Leslie Francis (University of Kansas Press, 2001).

“State Neutrality, Public Reason, and the Establishment Clause,” *The American Philosophical Association Newsletter on Philosophy and Law* (Fall 2000).

Book Review: *Critical Faith: Toward a Renewed Understanding of Religious Life and Its Public Accountability*, by Ronald A. Kuipers (Rodopi, 2002), *Ars Disputandi* 3 (2003).

Book Review: *Freedom of Association*, edited by Amy Gutmann (Princeton University Press, 1998), *Philosophy in Review* 19 (3) (June 1999): 187-18.

Presentations

“A Commentary on Rahel Jaeggi’s Critique of Forms of Life,” presented at the North American Society for Social Philosophy Annual Conference, University of San Francisco, July 13, 2019.

“Religious Freedom, Perfectionism, and the Right to Sexual Autonomy,” presented at the 2016 Conference of the American Section of the International Association for Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy (AMINTAPHIL), Wake Forest University, October 13, 2016.

“Democracy and Disingenuousness: The Case for Public Sincerity” presented at the North American Society for Social Philosophy Conference, Carleton University, Ottawa, July 23, 2016.

“Democracy and Disingenuousness: The Case for Public Sincerity” presented (with commentary by Elizabeth Edenberg) on the main program of the American Philosophical Association Eastern Division Meeting in Washington, D.C., January 7, 2016.

“Natural Normativity: A Defense of Neo-Aristotelianism in Ethics” presented at the International Society for the History, Philosophy, and Social Studies of Biology Conference in Montreal, July 10, 2015.

“Pleasure over Biology: An Alternative to Alexander Pruss’s Conception of Marital Sex” presented at the Society of Christian Philosophers Midwest Regional Conference at Spring Hill College, Alabama, March 21, 2015.

“Religious Freedom, Homosexuality, and the Right to Sexual Autonomy,” paper presented at The Society of Christian Philosophers 2013 Midwest Regional Conference, Georgetown College, Georgetown, KY, April 6, 2013.

“A Commentary on Audi and Wolterstorff,” invited contribution to the “*Religion in the Public Square* after 16 Years” Symposium held at The Society of Christian Philosophers Midwest Regional Conference, Hendrix College, Conway, AR, March 24, 2012. (Presented with responses by Nicholas Wolterstorff and Robert Audi.)

“A Defense of the ‘Sterility Objection’ to the New Natural Lawyers’ Argument against Same-Sex Marriage,” presentation at The Society of Christian Philosophers Midwest Regional Conference, Hendrix College, Conway, AR, March 23, 2012.

“The ‘Sterility Objection’ to the New Natural Lawyers’ Argument against Same-Sex Marriage,” paper presented at the North Carolina Philosophical Society and the South Carolina Society for Philosophy Joint Meeting at Elon University, Elon, NC, February 25, 2012.

“Not Natural Enough: Why the Contemporary Natural Law Argument against Homosexual Acts and Same-Sex Marriage Fails,” presentation at The Society of Christian Philosophers Eastern Regional Conference, Fordham University, New York, NY, March 19, 2011.

“Giving the Wrongdoer His Due: A Commentary on ‘Justice, Obligations, Rights, and Forgiveness’ by Ben Arbour and Jay Howell,” presentation at The Society of Christian Philosophers Midwest Regional Conference, Hope College, Holland, MI, February 26, 2011.

“Can an Atheist Believe in Human Rights?” paper presented at the 2007 Eastern Regional Meeting of the Society of Christian Philosophers, Columbia International University, Columbia, SC, April 21, 2007.

“Can an Atheist Believe in Human Rights?” paper presented at the 2006 North American Society of Social Philosophy Conference, University of Victoria, BC, Canada, August 4, 2006.

“Religion and Politics: The Pluralist Alternative to Political Liberalism,” paper presented at the Pacific Society for Christian Philosophers Annual Conference, George Fox University, Newberg, OR, April 15, 2005.

Invited Participant, “Liberty in International Politics: Classic and Contemporary Perspectives,” The Liberty Fund, Montreal, Quebec, Sept. 29-Oct. 2, 2005. One of thirteen scholars invited to participate in a colloquium on political philosophy and international politics.

“Religion and Politics: The Pluralist Alternative to Political Liberalism,” invited presentation at the University of North Carolina-Asheville, Department of Philosophy, Fall Colloquium Series, September 30, 2004.

“Civic Virtue and the Failure of Religious Neutrality,” presentation at the North American Society for Social Philosophy Conference held in conjunction with the Central Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, Chicago, IL, April 24, 2004.

“The Paradox of Public Secularism: A Critical Assessment of Robert Audi’s *Religious Commitment and Secular Reason*,” presentation (with commentary by Colin Bird) at The Center

on Religion and Democracy Postdoctoral Fellows Conference, The University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, September 26, 2003.

“Reconciliation through Pluralism: Toward a Post-Enlightenment Conception of Public Reasoning,” presentation at The British Society for the Philosophy of Religion and The Society of Christian Philosophers joint conference on Religion and Ethics, Lady Margaret Hall, University of Oxford, UK, August 7, 2003.

“Reconciliation through Pluralism: Toward a Post-Enlightenment Conception of Public Reasoning,” presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Association for the Study of Law, Culture, and the Humanities, New York University, March 8, 2003.

“Reconciliation through Pluralism: Toward a Post-Enlightenment Conception of Public Reasoning,” presentation at the 2002 Conference of the American Section of the International Association for the Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy (AMINTAPHIL), Washington, DC, November 22, 2002.

“Reconciliation through Pluralism: Toward a Post-Enlightenment Conception of Public Reason,” presentation at the South Carolina Society for Philosophy Annual Meeting, College of Charleston, SC, February 8, 2002.

“Reconciliation through Pluralism: Toward a Post-Enlightenment Conception of Public Reason,” presentation at the 17th Annual Social Philosophy Conference, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, ON, Canada, July 22, 2000.

“Pluralism and Political Justification,” presentation as part of the University of Rhode Island Department of Philosophy Colloquium Series, Kingston, RI, May 2, 2000.

“Liberal Neutrality, Public Reason, and the Religion Clauses of the First Amendment,” presentation at the 1998 Conference of the American Section of the International Association for the Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy (AMINTAPHIL), Concordia University, Montreal, QC, Canada, September 25, 1998.

“Group Rights, Autonomy, and the Free Exercise of Religion,” presentation at the Midwestern Regional Meeting of the Society of Christian Philosophers, University of Nebraska at Lincoln, April 17, 1998.

“Group Rights, Autonomy, and Religious Toleration,” presentation at the 14th Annual International Social Philosophy Conference, Queen’s University, ON, Canada, July 19, 1997.

“Religious Toleration vs. Equal Citizenship? A Commentary on Robert N. Van Wyk’s ‘Pluralism and Political Theory’,” presentation at the 1996 Conference of the American Section of the International Association for the Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy (AMINTAPHIL), University of Kentucky at Lexington, October 31, 1996.

Editorial

Syndicate Philosophy

Guest Editor, 2015-2018. Edited a symposium on Stephen Macedo's book, *Just Married: Same-Sex Couples, Monogamy, and the Future of Marriage* (Princeton, 2015), with critical commentaries by Laurie Shrage, Shannon Gilreath, Patrick Lee, Tamara Metz, and Amy Wax and responses by Stephen Macedo. <https://syndicate.network/symposia/philosophy/just-married/>

Teaching & Student Involvement

Courses Taught at Furman University (2001-present)

Philosophy 101: Introduction to Philosophy
Philosophy 200: Logic
Philosophy 208: Ethics
Philosophy 310: Social and Political Philosophy
Philosophy 311: Philosophy of Law
Philosophy 340: Philosophy of Religion
Philosophy 410: Knowledge, Truth, and Power
Philosophy 415: Philosophy of Sex and Love
Philosophy 506: Senior Honors Thesis I
Philosophy 507: Senior Honors Thesis II
Humanities 12: The Search for New Authorities: Renaissance, Reformation, Enlightenment
Humanities 201: Justice and Righteousness (Philosophical and Theological Perspectives)
FYW 1126: First Year Writing Seminar: The Ethics of Sex
IDS 180: Introduction to Intergroup Dialogue
CEM 605: Community Engaged Medicine: Implicit Bias and Community Engagement

Independent Study Courses

Ian Richardson, "Contemporary Epistemology," 2014.
Matt Kearns, "Moral Epistemology," 2013.
Jacob Zimmerman, "Capital Punishment," 2013.
Mark Busch, "Abortion," 2007.
Jonathan Carter, "Gay Rights," 2003

Furman Philosophy Department Honors Program

Spearheaded the creation of the Furman Philosophy Department Honors Program and serve as the program director, 2012-present.

Senior Honors Theses Directed:

Madison Terry, "Implicit Bias and the Criminal Law," 2020-2021
Bryan Colhoun, "Justificatory Convergence in the Public Sphere: Can Political Liberalism Sustain a Post-Metaphysical Turn?," 2017-2018.
Sabrina Boone, "Moral Disgust in Politics and Law," 2016-2017.
Anna Bower, "Foucault, Feminism, and Pornography," 2012-2013.

Furman University Intergroup Dialogue Program

Director for Curricular Initiatives, beginning 2018. Duties include recruiting students, faculty, and staff to participate in Furman's new program on intergroup dialogue, providing training, creating new courses and programs, and teaching sections of

IDS 101: Introduction to Intergroup Dialogue.

New Course Development Grants

Received a Furman Humanities Development Fund grant to develop a new course, PHL 415: Philosophy of Sex and Love, fall 2014.

Received a Furman Humanities Development Fund grant to develop a new course, Philosophy 410: Knowledge, Truth, and Power, fall 2009

Teaching & Related Workshops

Participated in the Associated Colleges of the South Inclusive Pedagogy Institute, University of Richmond, Richmond, VA, August 2018.

Participated in the University of Michigan's National Intergroup Dialogue Institute, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, June 2018.

Participated in the Gender & Sexuality 101 Workshop conducted by the Furman University Safe Zone Training Program, October 2017.

Participated in the Associated Colleges of the South Inclusive Pedagogy Workshop, Furman University, Greenville, SC, June-July, 2017.

Participated in the Furman Writing Fellows faculty seminar on improving writing instruction in the First Year Seminar program, 2015-2016.

Participated in the Associated Colleges of the South Summer Teaching and Learning Workshop, Rollins College, Winter Park, FL, June 2011.

Furman Advantage Activities

Teaching Assistants overseen:

Hannah Wilder, PHL 200: Logic, fall 2018.

Rachel Keith, PHL 200: Logic, fall 2016.

Student research projects overseen:

Emma Gibson, "Liberalism and Marriage," 2016-2017.

Emery Sloan "The New Atheists," 2013-2014.

John Helsel, "Alasdair MacIntyre and Moral Incommensurability," 2009-2010.

Jonathan Borders, "Metaethics," 2007-2008.

Beth Hupfer, "The Cartesian Circle" 2006-2007.

Buckley Warden, "Religion and Politics," 2003-2004.

Duke Scholar Intellectual Mentorship Program

Mentor, 2016. Served as a faculty mentor for Jocelyn Bouleware, a recipient of the Duke Scholarship at Furman.

Women and Philosophy Summer Reading Group

Organizer, 2014. Organized a reading group on women and philosophy that met weekly over the summer. Participants included students Samantha Menapace, Caley Howland, and Judith Carlisle, all of whom have gone on to graduate study in either philosophy or religion.

The Furman Summer Orientation Program

Advisor, 2018. Served as a summer advisor working with incoming freshman students.

Selected CLPs & On-Campus Presentations

"Sorry to Bother You" (CLP), served as the faculty sponsor and moderator/panelist for a discussion about a film on race, justice, and "code switching" sponsored by the RAISE

Resident Assistants, November 7, 2018.

“Casual Sex and Moral Minimalism: Raising the Bar on Campus Sexual Ethics,” invited presentation given as part of the Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program’s “Conversations” series, February 27, 2018.

“The EROS Drag Show” (CLP), served as judge and panelist for the annual campus drag show sponsored by the student group EROS, March 31, 2017.

“When Is It Okay to Punch a Nazi?” (CLP), participated in a panel discussion about political violence in the Trump era as part of Furman’s “Our Republic” series of public forums, March 30, 2017.

“Audrie & Daisy” (CLP), participated in a panel discussion about a documentary on sexual assault sponsored by the SHARP Committee, March 1, 2017.

“The Brock Turner Case” (CLP), participated in a panel discussion on the Brock Turner rape case sponsored by the SHARP Committee, February 1, 2017.

“What is the Good Life?” (CLP), gave an invited lecture about virtue ethics for the Mere Christianity Forum, January 18, 2017.

“A Discussion about ‘Political Correctness’” (CLP), participated in a panel discussion about political correctness sponsored by the Student Diversity Council, September 20, 2016.

“Netflix and Chill” (CLP), participated in a panel discussion about casual sex on campus sponsored by the SHARP Committee, April 13, 2016.

“A Discussion of Alfred Hitchcock’s film *Rope*” (CLP), led a discussion about Nietzschean themes in Hitchcock’s film for the English Honors Society, February 11, 2016.

The Vista House/Mere Christianity Forum

Faculty Sponsor, 2004-2017. Served as the faculty sponsor for an ecumenical student organization devoted to promoting the integration of Christian faith and liberal learning. Duties include sponsoring lecturers, giving presentations, attending board meetings, and participating in hiring decisions.

The Canterbury Club

Faculty Sponsor, 2016-present. Serve as the faculty sponsor for an Episcopalian student group. Duties include sponsoring and moderating guest lecturer presentations.

The Furman Humanities Review

Editorial Board Member, 2004-2007; 2018-present. Serve as a member of the editorial board of an annual journal that publishes the best undergraduate writing at Furman. Duties include reviewing and ranking submissions.

Institutional Service

The Furman University Philosophy Department

I have been selected to serve as the Chair of the Philosophy Department for a 3-year term beginning May 2019.

The Association of American Colleges and Universities

I have been asked by Dean Ken Peterson to serve as a faculty representative at the Association of American Colleges and Universities conference, “Raising Our Voices: Reclaiming the Narrative on the Value of Higher Education,” to be held in Atlanta, GA, from January 23-26, 2019.

The Furman University Library

I have been asked to serve as a faculty representative on the committee that will hire the next director of the Furman Library in the spring of 2019.

The Furman Faculty Retreat

Organized and helped lead two breakout sessions on Furman’s new Intergroup Dialogue Program at the Faculty Retreat, August 23, 2018.

The Furman Student Conduct Board

Faculty Board Member, 2016-present. Serve as a faculty member on the board that conducts disciplinary hearings for students accused of violating university policies.

The Sexual Harassment and Rape Prevention (SHARP) Committee

Committee Member, 2017-present. Serve as a member on a committee composed of faculty, staff, and students that is dedicated to raising awareness about and preventing sexual assault on campus.

The Faculty Recruiting, Advancement, & Tenure Committee (FRAT)

Inclusive Search Trainer, 2017-present. Give presentations on how departments can conduct more inclusive job searches. Presentations given to the Computer Science department, Classics department, and the Library staff at Furman University.

The American Association of University Professors (AAUP), Furman Chapter

AAUP Representative, the Title IX Committee, beginning fall 2018. Invited to serve on a committee that oversees Furman’s Title IX program.

President, 2016-2018. Duties included planning chapter meetings, serving as a resource and advocate for faculty members, holding regular meetings with administrators, helping to revise Furman policies, overseeing chapter elections, and organizing public forums on important issues. During my tenure, I wrote an investigative report on a Title IX case, met with administrators on a controversial tenure decision, and held public forums on academic freedom and free speech on campus.

Vice-President, 2014-2016. Duties included engaging in recruiting efforts, serving as an

advocate for individual faculty members, planning and moderating a public forum on Title IX and Academic Freedom, and organizing a listening session on diversity at Furman.

Treasurer, 2012-2014. In addition to performing regular Treasurer's duties, I helped conduct an inquiry into whether appropriate procedures were followed in a tenure denial case and served as an AAUP representative during a faculty member's meeting with the Dean of the Faculty.

The Transformative Learning Working Group

Member, 2018. Served as a member of a working group led by Associate Provost for Engaged Learning Beth Pontari that was dedicated to developing a theoretically rich understanding of "transformative education" as part of implementing the Furman Advantage.

The Charles Townes Lecture Committee

Chair, 2013-2017. Served as the chair of the committee charged with inviting and hosting the annual Townes Lecturer on Faith and Reason. Duties included: inviting speakers, arranging travel, meals, accommodations, and publicity, planning class visits and formal lectures, and hosting speakers on campus. Lecturers whose visits I oversaw: Diana Eck (2015), Kenneth Miller (2016), and Christian Smith (2016).

Committee Member, 2006-2013, 2017-2018.

The Furman Appeals Committee

Member, 2015-2018. Served on the standing university committee devoted to considering student appeals to Furman's academic regulations.

The Grievance Policy (153.1) Revision Committee

Chair, 2016-2017. Served as chair of an ad hoc committee convened by the Faculty Status Committee to rewrite the faculty grievance policy (153.1).

The Furman Institutional Review Board (IRB)

Member, 2004-2016. Served on the university board responsible for reviewing the ethical propriety of research using human subjects conducted by Furman faculty and students.

The Piper Ethics Seminar

Co-Director, 2006-2015. Served as one of three philosophers involved in planning and leading a biennial faculty seminar devoted to teaching ethics across the curriculum. Duties included choosing texts and assignments and teaching seminars on ethics and political philosophy to members of the Furman faculty.

Furman Faculty Officers

Faculty Recorder, 2012-2014. Served as the faculty officer responsible for recording the minutes of each faculty meeting.

The Cothran Center for Vocational Reflection

"Engaging Diverse Ways of Knowing in the Academy," participated in a panel discussion

about different academic disciplines' approaches to knowledge sponsored by the Cothran Center, February 21, 2017.

Faculty Seminar Participant, 2013-2014. Participated in "The Vocations of the Professoriate: Are We Called to Engage the Public?," a faculty seminar devoted to the question of how professors can best serve the public good.

Co-Director, Faculty Seminar on Social Justice, 2005-2006. Served as one of three professors from different academic disciplines engaged in the design, planning, and leadership of a faculty seminar entitled, "What is Social Justice?"

Faculty Seminar Participant, 2002-2003. One of fourteen faculty members chosen to participate in "Thinking Theologically: Vocation and Belief," a faculty seminar devoted to the question of how to find one's vocation as a professor.

The Furman Research and Professional Growth Committee

Member, 2008-2011. Served on the standing university committee that evaluates faculty proposals for sabbatical leave and research funding.

The SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools) Ultimate Questions Review Committee

Member, 2009-2010. Served as one of three faculty members on a committee charged with evaluating the university's course offerings to ensure compliance with accreditation requirements.

The Lilly Fellows Program in Humanities and the Arts

Representative, 19th Annual National Conference, October 2-4, 2009. Served as the faculty representative from Furman University at a conference on the theme of "Practicing Cosmopolitanism" hosted by Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI.

Representative, 14th Annual National Conference, October 15-17, 2004. Served as one of two faculty representatives from Furman University at a conference on the theme of "'Fling Yourself Farther': Metaphor, Faith and Learning," hosted by St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN.

Representative, 12th Annual National Conference, October 18-20, 2002. Served as one of two faculty representatives from Furman University at a conference on the theme of

"Vocation, Liberal Learning, and the Church-Related Academy," hosted by Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, IN.

The Furman Faculty Awards Committee

Member, 2005-2008. Served on the standing university committee that selects the finalists for the Bradshaw-Feaster and Donaldson-Watkins Medals for General Student Excellence and that awards the annual Faculty Scholarship.

The Furman Study Away Committee

Member, 2006-2007. Served on one of four sub-committees of the Implementation Task Force charged with proposing ways to maintain and enhance Furman's study away

programs following the changes to our curriculum and calendar.

Phi Beta Kappa, Gamma of South Carolina

President, 2005-2007. Duties included organizing and running regular chapter meetings, planning and leading the spring induction ceremony, and helping to plan upcoming events.

Professional Service

The American Philosophical Association (APA)

Serving as a session chair for a colloquium on social and political philosophy at the APA Eastern Division Meeting in New York, NY, January 7-10, 2019.

The North American Society for Social Philosophy (NASSP)

Serving as a member of the annual NASSP book award committee that selects the best book published in social and political philosophy each year.

The South Carolina Society for Philosophy (SCSP)

Local Arrangements Coordinator, 2013-2014. Helped plan, arrange, and run the South Carolina Society for Philosophy Annual Conference held at Furman University, February 14-15, 2014.

Honors and Awards

Postdoctoral Fellow, The Center on Religion and Democracy, The University of Virginia, 2003-2004.

Received a \$35,000 postdoctoral fellowship to pursue research on religion and democracy during the 2003-2004 academic year.

Pew Younger Scholar, St. Edward's University, Austin, TX, June 5-18, 1999.

One of twelve graduate students chosen to participate in "Foundationalism in Politics: Liberalism, Natural Law Theory, and the Pluralist Alternative," a summer seminar conducted by Professor Nicholas Wolterstorff of Yale University and funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts.

Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, 1996.

Received an award given on a competitive basis to graduate students whose dissertations show exceptional promise.

Coolidge Otis Chapman Honors Scholar, University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA, 1991.

Awarded for completing the University Honors Program.

Phi Beta Kappa, University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA, 1991.

Affiliations and Memberships

The Society of Christian Philosophers (SCP)

The American Philosophical Association (APA)

The North American Society for Social Philosophy (NASSP)

The American Section of the International Association for the Philosophy of Law and Philosophy (AMINTAPHIL)

The South Carolina Society for Philosophy (SCSP)