

# BRANDON M. WILLIAMS

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## Academic Positions

Instructional Assistant Professor & Director of Elizabeth D. Rockwell Center on Ethics and Leadership - Hobby School of Public Affairs, University of Houston	9/2025 - present
Full-Time Instructor - Philosophy -Houston Community College Director - Northwest Honors College Interim Chair - Philosophy, Humanities, and Library Science	8/2017 - 8/2025 8/2022 - 8/2024 9/2021 - 8/2022

## Education

Rice University Houston, TX Ph.D.: Philosophy	05/2021
Northern Illinois University DeKalb, IL M.A.: Philosophy	05/2012
Central Bible College Springfield, MO B.A.: Biblical Studies/Theology	12/2003

## **Additional Education:**

International University of Africa - Khartoum, Sudan - Arabic Language Study	02/01/07 – 12/20/07
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## Area of Specialization: Metaethics

## Areas of Competence: Normative & Applied Ethics, Social-Political Philosophy, Epistemology

## Publications:

- Kirsten Ostherr, Svetlana Borodina, Rachel Bracken, Charlie Lotterman, Eliot Storer, **Brandon Williams** (equal effort), "Trust and Privacy in the Context of User-Generated Health Data," *Big Data and Society* 4 (1) 2017.
- Brandon Williams, "From Internalism to Instrumentalism," *Southwest Philosophy Review* 30 (1) 2014.

## Teaching Experience

- Instructor of Record:
  - + Philosophy and Public Policy II (POLC 6331)
    - University of Houston - Hobby School of Public Affairs
  - + Contemporary Political Philosophy and Policy (POLC 3313)
    - University of Houston - Hobby School of Public Affairs
  - + Intro. to Philosophy (PHIL 1301)
    - Houston Community College
  - + Intro to Ethics (PHIL 2306)
    - Houston Community College
  - + Intro to Formal Logic (PHIL 2303)
    - Houston Community College

- + Intro to Humanities (HUMA 1301)
  - Houston Community College
- + Problems of Philosophy (PHIL 100)
  - Rice University
- + Intro. to Philosophy of Science (PHIL 104)
  - Rice University
- + Contemporary Moral Issues (PHIL 101)
  - Rice University
- + Intro. to Philosophy (PHIL 1301)
  - Lone Star College, Kingwood

- Teaching Assistant:

- + History of Modern Philosophy (PHIL 383) - Assistant to Mark Kulstad
  - Rice University

## **Service**

- Interim Department Chair - Philosophy, Humanities, and Library Sciences (2021- 2022)
- Faculty Senate Delegate, Houston Community College (2019 - 2020, 2021-2022, 2023 - 2024)
- Member of the DEI subcommittee of the Faculty Senate (2018 - 2023)
- Facilitator - Adjunct Academy, Houston Community College (2019 - 2021)
- Co-organizer of Ethics & Society at Rice (summer philosophy program for underprivileged high school students) (2016-2017)
- Rice Philosophy Department Admissions Committee (graduate student member)
- Moderator for the Houston Ethics Bowl (2014 - 2017)
- Co-organizer of the Houston area Graduate Talks in Philosophy (2013 - 2014)
- Rice Philosophy Department representative to the Humanities Graduate Student Association
- Rice Philosophy Department Speaker Committee member

## **Awards**

- Graduate Fellow, Hebrew University, Center for Moral and Political Philosophy (Summer 2019)
- American Philosophical Association - Diversity and Inclusiveness Grant
  - +Co-organizer
- A. W. Mellon Graduate Research Seminar - "The Quantified Self"
  - +Student participant (competitive position)
- Humanities Research Center - Public Humanities Fellowship (declined)

## **Papers and Commentary:**

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| Commentator: Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress<br>- "Models and Moral Status" - Megan Kitts & Joseph Wilson                                   | July 2025 |
| Presenter: Talks on Morality Across The Ocean (Tomato <sup>2</sup> )<br>- "Wanting to Want"  | July 2025 |
| Commentator: Philadelphia Normative Philosophy Conference<br>- "From Metaethics to First-Order Ethics: A Proof of Concept" - Raff Donelson | Oct. 2023 |
| Presenter: Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress<br>- "Wanting to Want"   | Aug. 2022 |
| Presenter: Central States Philosophical Association<br>- "Choose Either Error Theory or Realism"   | Apr. 2022 |

Commentator: Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress - "Public Justification and Changes of Personal Commitments" - Xuanpu Zhao	Aug. 2021
Commentator: American Philosophical Association (Pacific) - "Practical Hope" - Catherine Rioux	Apr. 2021
Commentator: American Philosophical Association (Central) - "Famine Affluence and Amoralism" - David Sackris	Feb. 2021
Presenter: American Philosophical Association (Central) - "Toward a Functional Account of Normative Reasons"	Feb. 2018
Presenter: Philosophy Learning and Teaching Organization - "Ethics and Society Summer Enrichment Program"	June 2017
Presenter: University of Texas, Austin Graduate Philosophy Conference - "Against External Reasons: What Williams Should Have Said"	Apr. 2016
Presenter: Midsouth Philosophy Conference - "The Failure of Desire Satisfactionism"	Feb. 2016
Presenter: Midsouth Philosophy Conference - "The Possibility of Carnapian Error Theory"	Feb. 2015
Commentator: Midsouth Philosophy Conference - "Causal Explanation in Social Neuroscience: Two Analyses" - Aaron Kostko & John Bickle	Feb. 2015
Presenter: Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress - "Choose Either Error Theory or Objective Realism" (poster)	Aug. 2014
Commentator: Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress - "Fit, Fitness, Fittingness" - Arthur Ward	Aug. 2014
Presenter: Midsouth Philosophy Conference - "Against External Reasons: What Williams Should Have Said"	Feb. 2014
Commentator: Midsouth Philosophy Conference - "Which Causes of Moral Beliefs Matter?"	Feb. 2014
Presenter: Institute of Applied Ethics (University of Hull) "What is Welfare?" - "Personal Welfare as Simple Desire Satisfactionism"	Nov. 2013
Presenter: Southwest Philosophical Society Annual Meeting - "From Internalism to Instrumentalism"	Oct. 2013
Presenter: Indiana Philosophical Association, fall conference - "Personal Welfare as Simple Desire Satisfactionism"	Oct. 2013
Commentator: Indiana Philosophical Association, spring conference - "Dehorning the Darwinian Dilemma for Realist Theories of Value"	Apr. 2012
Presenter: Indiana Philosophical Association, spring conference - "From Internalism to Instrumentalism and Its Normative Implications"	Apr. 2012
Presenter: SUNY-Albany Graduate conference on Metaethics - "From Internalism to Instrumentalism and Its Normative Implication"	Apr. 2012
Commentator: Midsouth Philosophy Conference	Feb. 2012

- "Subservience, Information Responsiveness, and Autonomy"

Presenter: Midsouth Philosophy Conference  
- "From Internalism to Instrumentalism"

Feb. 2012

Commentator: Fifth Annual Midwest Regional Graduate Conference  
- "The Reflective Wisdom Account and Humean Metaethics"

Oct. 2011

## **Previous Experience**

### **Little City Foundation**

8/2010 – 8/2011

- Personal Care Provider
  - o Provide therapy and care of children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders

### **Behavioral Intervention Solutions**

2/2010 – 7/2010

- Behavioral Assistant
  - o Facilitate the care and behavior therapy of adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorders

### **International Aid Services Khartoum, Sudan**

3/2009 - 7/2009

- Interim Country Director
  - o Manage the daily activities of the organization in the absence of the permanent Country Director
  - o Sit on Steering Committee of International NGO's working in Sudan
  - o Work with UNAMIS (United Nations Advance Mission In Sudan) to coordinate services in Darfur and other areas of North Sudan.

### **International Aid Services Khartoum, Sudan**

11/2008 - 12/2009

- Human Resource Manager / Program Support Manager
  - o Manage all issues of staff for Humanitarian Organization in Sudan (~150 staff members)
  - o Help Administer organizational programming throughout Sudan

### **Safe Harbor International Khartoum, Sudan**

6/2008 - 11/2008

- Country Director – Sudan
  - o Manage all operations of organization in Northern Sudan,
  - o Facilitate the closure of organizational operations in Northern Sudan