

Johannes Himmelreich

Department of Public Administration and International Affairs
215 Eggers Hall
Syracuse University
Syracuse, NY 13244

jrhimmel@syr.edu
johanneshimmelreich.net

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Since 2025 **Associate Professor**, *Maxwell School of Citizenship at Syracuse University*
Faculty Affiliate, Department of Philosophy
Faculty Affiliate, iSchool
Senior Research Associate, Campbell Public Affairs Institute

2019-25 **Assistant Professor**, *Maxwell School of Citizenship at Syracuse University*

2017-19 **Postdoctoral Fellow**, *Stanford University and Apple*

2015-17 **Postdoctoral Fellow**, *Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin*

EDUCATION

London School of Economics and Political Science

2016 Ph.D. Philosophy
2011 M.Sc. Philosophy and Public Policy

Bayreuth University

2010 B.A. Philosophy and Economics

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

2025 The Intersectionality Problem for Algorithmic Fairness
(with Arbie Hsu, Ellen Veomett, Kristian Lum)
Proceedings of Machine Learning Research (PMLR) 279

2024 Difference-making and the Control Relation that Grounds Responsibility in
Hierarchical Groups
Philosophical Studies 181

2024 The Disappearing Agent as an Exclusion Problem
Inquiry 67(6)

2023 Against Democratizing AI
AI & Society 38

2023 What Killed your Plant? Profligate Omissions and Weak Centering
Erkenntnis 88

2022 No Wheel but a Dial: Why and how passengers in self-driving cars should decide how their car drives
Ethics and Information Technology 24(4)

2022 Responsible AI through Conceptual Engineering
(with Sebastian Köhler)
Philosophy & Technology 35(3)

2022 Using Artificial Intelligence to Identify Administrative Errors in Unemployment Insurance
(with Danylo Honcharov, Matthew M Young, and Sucheta Soundarajan)
Government Information Quarterly 39(4)

2021 Teaching Moral Reasoning: Why and How to Use the Trolley Problem
(with Joshua Cohen)
Journal of Public Affairs Education 27(4)

2021 Artificial Intelligence and Administrative Evil
(with Matthew M Young, Justin Bullock and Kyoung-Cheol Kim)
Winner of the Camilla Stivers Best Article Award in Perspectives on Public Management and Governance
Perspectives on Public Management and Governance 4(3)

2021 Existence, Really? Tacit Disagreements about “Existence” in Disputes about Group Minds and Corporate Agents
Synthese 198(5)

2020 Ethics of Technology needs more Political Philosophy
Communications of the ACM 63(1)

2019 Responsibility for Killer Robots
Ethical Theory and Moral Practice 22(3)

2019 Asylum for Sale: A Market between States that is Feasible and Desirable
Journal of Applied Philosophy 36(2)

2019 Punishing Groups: When External Justice Takes Priority over Internal Justice
(with Holly Lawford-Smith)
The Monist 102(2)

2018 Never Mind the Trolley: The Ethics of Autonomous Vehicles in Mundane Situations
Ethical Theory and Moral Practice 21(3)

2018 Agency and Embodiment: Groups, Human–Machine Interactions, and Virtual Realities
Ratio 31(2)

2017 The Paraphrase Argument Against Collective Actions
Australasian Journal of Philosophy 95(1)

2015 Epistemic Landscapes, Optimal Search and the Division of Cognitive Labor
 (with J. Alexander and C. Thompson)
Philosophy of Science 82(3)

Books Chapters, Invited Contributions

forthc. Democracy and the AI-Augmented Administrative State
Democracy's Mega Challenges: Climate Change, Migration, and Artificial Intelligence, Anthony Messina, Belen Fernandez Milmenda (eds.), Palgrave MacMillan

2025 Justice and the Global Digital Economy
Justice in Global Economic Governance, Axel Berger, Clara Brandi, Eszter Kollar (eds.), Edinburgh University Press

2024 AI and Structural Injustice: Foundations for Equity, Values, and Responsibility
Oxford Handbook of AI Governance, Justin Bullock, Yu-Che Chen, Johannes Himmelreich, Valerie Hudson, Anton Korniek, Matthew Young, Baobao Zhang (eds.), Oxford University Press
 (with Désirée Lim)

2024 Should we Automate Democracy?
Oxford Handbook of Digital Ethics, Carissa Véliz (ed.), Oxford University Press

Conference Proceedings (peer-reviewed)

2021 The Right Tool for The Job? Assessing the Use of Artificial Intelligence for Identifying Administrative Errors
 (with Danylo Honcharov, Matthew M Young, and Sucheta Soundarajan)
The 22nd Annual International Conference on Digital Government Research
Winner of the conference's best research paper award

Edited Volumes

2024 *Oxford Handbook of AI Governance*
 with Justin Bullock, Yu-Che Chen, Valerie Hudson, Anton Korinek, Matthew M Young, Baobao Zhang (eds.), Oxford University Press

Book Reviews

2017 'Understanding Institutions' by F. Guala
Journal of Social Ontology 3(2)

2015 'From Individual to Collective Intentionality' by Chant, Hindriks, Preyer (eds.)
Economics and Philosophy 31(3)

Policy Briefings

2021 Building Robust and Ethical Vaccination Verification Systems
Brookings Tech Stream (co-authored with Baobao Zhang, Laurin Weissinger, Nina McMurry, Tiffany Li, Naomi Scheinerman, and Sarah Kreps)

2020 Contribution to a European Agenda for AI: Improving Risk Management, Building Strong Governance, Accelerating Education and Research
Public Consultation Response to European Commission White Paper on Artificial Intelligence (co-authored with Baobao Zhang, Adrien Abecassis, Justin B. Bullock, Valerie M. Hudson, and Jack Loveridge)

Public Philosophy

2025 Silicon Borders: The Global Justice of AI Infrastructure
The Cairo Review of Global Affairs

2018 The everyday moral challenges of self-driving cars
The Conversation, The Independent, Boston Globe and others

2017 Asyl zu Verkaufen (on my 'Asylum for Sale')
In: 'Wenn ich mir etwas wünschen dürfte' Helfer, Meyer, Wettig (eds.)

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2022 **Birkhead-Burkhead Award for Teaching Excellence**, Department of Public Administration and International Affairs, Maxwell School at Syracuse University
Camilla Stivers Award for best article in Perspectives on Public Management and Governance (PPMG) in 2021
Ignaz Kögler Senior Fellow, Ingolstadt, Germany (offer declined)

2021 Best Research Paper Award, The 22nd Annual International Conference on Digital Government Research (DG.O 2021)

2014-15 Fulbright Doctoral Fellowship (offer declined)

2012-15 German Academic Scholarship Foundation (Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes), Ph.D. research fellowship

2011 European Charlemagne Youth Prize (awarded by European Parliament to magazine *Europe & Me* as co-founder and editor)

2007-11 Konrad Adenauer Foundation, student fellowship

FUNDING

Since 2019 CNY Humanities Corridor: Working Group “AI and Human Values,” together with Jens Kipper, Jon Herington, and Daniel Susser

2024-26 **National Endowment for the Humanities:** Good Decisions — Data Science as a Moral Practice (Single-researcher project in the program Dangers and Opportunities of Technology)

2022 Appleby-Mosher Fund for Faculty Research, Syracuse University: The Philosophical Foundations of Data Science

2021 Summer Project Assistantship Grant, Syracuse University: The Philosophical Foundations of Data Science
APSIA Faculty Fund: Promoting Research and Teaching of Ethics of Data Science, together with Simon Munzert, Hertie School
Appleby-Mosher Fund for Faculty Research, Syracuse University: The Philosophical Foundations of Data Science

2020 Syracuse University CUSE Grant: Democratic Values and Artificial Intelligence in Public Places (PI)
Syracuse University CUSE Grant: AI and administrative error: the practice and ethics of AI decision-making in the public sector (Co-PI)

2018 Stanford Presence Center: AI in Medicine (AiME), seed grant
Stanford One Hundred Year Study on Artificial Intelligence (AI100), workshop grant

2017 Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), workshop grant
Gesellschaft für Analytische Philosophie (GAP), workshop grant

PRESENTATIONS AND TALKS

Peer-reviewed

2025 Responsible AI in Health Care Conference, Rotterdam
Ulysses and the Models: Meta-cognitive Limitations and human oversight
Meeting of the Philosophy, Politics & Economics Society, London
Democracy in the AI-Augmented State: The Role of Responsible Public Service Norms

2024	<p>NeurIPS 2024 Workshop “Algorithmic Fairness through the Lens of Metrics and Evaluation” (AFME), Vancouver</p>
	<p><i>The Intersectionality Problem for Algorithmic Fairness</i> (with Arbie Hsu, Kristian Lum, and Ellen Veomett)</p>
	<p>Annual Meeting of the Philosophy, Politics & Economics Society, New Orleans <i>Intersectional Fairness and Small Groups</i> (with Arbie Hsu, Kristian Lum, and Ellen Veomett)</p>
	<p>TexnēCon 2024, Northeastern University, Boston <i>Intersectional Fairness and Small Groups</i> (with Arbie Hsu, Kristian Lum, and Ellen Veomett)</p>
2022	<p>German Analytic Philosophy Association (GAP.11), Berlin <i>The Regress Problem for Experiments in Living</i> (with Matthew Adams)</p>
	<p>Annual Meeting of the Philosophy, Politics & Economics Society, New Orleans <i>What Experiments Can and Can't do in Political Philosophy</i> (with Matthew Adams)</p>
	<p>Annual Meeting of the Philosophy, Politics & Economics Society, New Orleans <i>What Can We Learn from Experiments in Living</i> (with Matthew Adams)</p>
	<p>Annual Meeting of the Philosophy, Politics & Economics Society, New Orleans <i>Justice in the Global Digital Economy</i></p>
2021	<p>DG.O 2021: 22nd Annual International Conference on Digital Government Research, online Values for AV Governance — How to overcome the conflict between efficiency and autonomy? Panel on Cyber-physical innovations</p>
	<p>DG.O 2021: 22nd Annual International Conference on Digital Government Research, online <i>The Right Tool for The Job? Assessing the Use of Artificial Intelligence for Identifying Administrative Errors</i> (with Matthew M. Young, Sucheta Soundarajan and Danylo Honcharov)</p>
	<p>Business Ethics in the 6ix Workshop, Ted Rogers School of Management, Ryerson University, online <i>Should AI be governed democratically?</i></p>
	<p>Embedding AI in Society Symposium, NC State University, online <i>Should AI be governed democratically?</i></p>
2020	<p>APPAM Fall Research Conference, online <i>The Right Tool for the Job? Assessing the Effectiveness and Ethics of Using of Artificial Intelligence for Identifying Administrative Errors</i> (co-authored with Matthew M. Young, Sucheta Soundarajan and Danylo Honcharov)</p>

2019	APPAM Fall Research Conference, Denver <i>Ethics Assessments of Machine Learning Applications in Public Services: Lessons from Criminal Justice</i>
2018	Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress (RoME XI) <i>Trying, Striving and Falling Short: The Value of Difficult Pursuits</i>
2017	European Congress of Analytic Philosophy (ECAP9) <i>Higher-Order Disagreements in Social Ontology</i> University of Flensburg, Workshop on Political Philosophy <i>Citizen Responsibility</i>
2016	Umeå University, Workshop on Responsibility in Complex Systems <i>Responsibility Grounded: What are the Causal Foundations?</i> Universiteit Gent, Workshop on Agency and Causation <i>Responsibility Grounded: What are the Causal Foundations?</i> Collective Intentionality X, Den Haag <i>Responsibility in Hierarchical Groups</i>
2015	Future of Just War Theory, Conference, US Naval Academy <i>Responsibility for Killer Robots</i> VI. Meetings on Ethics and Political Philosophy, University of Minho <i>Responsibility for Killer Robots</i> Society for the Metaphysics of Science (SMS), Rutgers University <i>A Solution to the Problem of Profligate Omissions</i> German Analytic Philosophy Association (GAP.9), Osnabrück <i>A Solution to the Problem of Profligate Omissions</i>
2014	APA Eastern Division Meeting, Philadelphia <i>How the 'It's a Shorthand' Argument Against Collective Actions Fails</i> Collective Intentionality IX, Indiana University Bloomington <i>Agency as Difference-Making: A Propositional Framework</i>
2013	European Network on Social Ontology (ENSO III), Helsinki <i>Semantic Analysis and Group Agency</i>

Invited Presentations

2025	Philosophy and Economics Seminar, Institute for Futures Studies (IFFS), Stockholm, <i>Humans out of the loop</i> Symposium: “Rewiring Democracy for Algorithmic Realities”, Yale University <i>Democracy in an AI-Augmented Bureaucracy</i>
------	---

	Meeting of the Philosophy, Politics & Economics Society, London <i>Ulysses and the Models: Meta-cognitive Limitations and human oversight</i>
	European Workshop on Algorithmic Fairness (EWAf), Eindhoven Keynote: <i>Does Algorithmic Fairness have an Intersectionality Problem?</i>
2024	Digital Life Initiative (DLI), Cornell Tech <i>Preserving Democracy in the AI-Augmented State: The Role of Responsible Public Service Norms</i>
	Centre for Meaningful Human Control, TU Delft <i>Knowledge and Commitment. Or: What's the Point of Meaningful Human Control?</i>
	Trinity College, Hartford CT <i>Why Bureaucrats should not be Robots</i>
	Rochester Institute of Technology, <i>Three Approaches to the Ethics of Data Science</i>
	Hobby School of Public Affairs, University of Houston <i>Why Bureaucrats should not be Robots</i>
	APA Eastern Division Meeting, New York City <i>How Social Experiments Can and Can't Justify Normative Principles</i>
2023	Munich Center of Mathematical Philosophy, Chair of Christian List <i>What Experiments Can and Can't do for Political Philosophy</i>
2022	APA Pacific Division Meeting, Vancouver <i>Against "Democratizing AI"</i>
	Philosophy, Politics & Economics Society, Ethics and Public Policy Working Group <i>The Regress Problem for Experiments in Living</i> (with Matthew Adams)
2021	American Society for Public Administration (ASPA), Science and Technology in Government Section, Brown Bag Lunch Seminar
	Yale Law School, Information Society Project <i>Should AI be governed democratically?</i>
	University of Helsinki, Workshop on individual responsibility for collectively-caused outcomes <i>Citizen Responsibility as Associative Responsibility</i>
	IJCAI-PRCAI 2020: International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence – Pacific Rim International Conference on AI, online Panel Presentation on AI100 Workshop “Coding Caring”
2020	German Development Institute, Bonn, Workshop on Justice in Global Economic Governance

Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University, Workshop on Ethics of Technology
Democratize AI?

2019 NASPAA Annual Conference, Los Angeles
Three Misconceptions about Ethics in Data Analytics

Automated Vehicles Symposium 2019, Orlando
No Wheel but a Dial (presented as: “The Correlated Dial”)

Sonoma State University, Ethics of Engineering guest lecture
How (not) to think about the ethics of self-driving cars

2017 Stanford University, Political Theory Workshop
Citizen Responsibility

Humboldt-Universität Berlin, Departmental Seminar
Responsibility in Hierarchical Groups

University of Duisburg-Essen, Departmental Seminar
Responsibility Grounded: What are the Causal Foundations?

2016 Princeton University, Conference ‘The State as a Collective Agent and Citizen Complicity in States’ Actions’
Can Responsibility be Delegated?

Schloss Dagstuhl, Workshop on Engineering Artificial Agents
Agency Tutorial

2015 Duke Moral Attitudes and Decision-Making Lab (MAD LAB)
A Solution to the Problem of Profligate Omissions

TEACHING

Syracuse University

Since 2021 Public Administration and Democracy

2020 Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Autonomous Systems and Artificial Intelligence

Since 2019 Ethics of Emerging Technologies
 Philosophy and Ethics of Data Science

Apple University

2018 Reasoning About What is Right (with Joshua Cohen)

Humboldt-Universität Berlin *instructor of record, during research-only fellowship*

2017 Political Ontology: State, Law, and Gender
 Authority, Democracy and Freedom: Themes in Political Philosophy
 (with Gabriel Wollner)

2016 Philosophy of the Social Sciences
 Transformative Experience and Hard Choices

Bayreuth University *instructor of record*

2015 Equality
2014 Agency, Responsibility, and Artificial Intelligence
2013 Ethics of Markets
2012 Ethical Aspects of Policy Evaluation and Cost-Benefit-Analysis

SERVICE

Syracuse University

Development and director of AI Policy Minor (since 2024)
MAIR program committee (2025-26)
Inter-collegiate committee to develop new major on Artificial Intelligence (2025)
Teaching awards committee (2022-26)
Departmental executive committee (2023-24)
MPA program committee (2023-24)
Search committee for faculty positions (2021, 2022)
Search committee for department chair (2021)

Humboldt Universität zu Berlin

Postdoc coordinator, Department of Philosophy (2016-17)
Scholarship committee, Humboldt Graduate School (2016-17)

Event Organization

2025 Signature Speaker Event on Philosophy of Data Science, Syracuse University
2024 Manuscript Workshop on Philosophy of AI, Syracuse University
2023 Manuscript Workshop on Ethical Foundations of Data Science, Syracuse University
2021 Interdisciplinary Virtual Workshop on Ethics of AI
 Workshop on teaching ethics and data science at Hertie School Berlin
2020 Interdisciplinary Virtual Workshop on Ethics of AI
2019 Breakout session at Stanford HAI conference on “Ethics, Policy & Governance”
 Interdisciplinary Workshop ‘Coding Caring: Ethics for an Intimate AI’
2018 Industry workshops on ethics processes in tech companies
2017 Symposium at European Congress of Analytic Philosophy (ECAP 9)
 Section on Philosophy and Economics at 24th meeting of DGPhil
 Workshop on agency and moral responsibility at HU Berlin
2016 Workshop on responsibility and artificial intelligence at ZiF Bielefeld
2013-17 Annual graduate conferences between LSE–Bayreuth and HU–KCL

Reviewer

ACM FAccT Conference, Area Chair (2023)
AI and Ethics (2020, 2021, 2022)
AI & Society (2020, 2021, 2023, 2025)
American Journal of Political Science (2020)
American Philosophical Quarterly (2016)
American Political Science Review (2022)
Analysis (2017, 2018, 2020, 2025)
Australasian Journal of Philosophy (2017, 2018, 2019)
Canadian Journal of Philosophy (2023)
Communications of the ACM (2022, 2025)
Dialectia (2017)
Dutch Research Council (NWO) Grant reviewer (2023)
Economics and Philosophy (2015, 2016)
Ergo (2025)
Erkenntnis (2019, 2020)
Ethical Theory and Moral Practice (2022)
Ethics and Information Technology (2018)
Ethics and International Affairs (2020)
European Research Council (2024)
Handbook of Governance and Data Science (2023)
Hypatia (2017)
International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML) [ethics reviewer] (2024, 2025)
Israel Science Foundation (2024)
Journal of Applied Philosophy (2016, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2023, 2024)
Journal of Business Ethics (2017)
Journal of Ethics (2020)
Journal of Institutional Economics (2019)
Journal of Political Philosophy (2017)
Journal of Social Ontology (2014, 2017)
Journal of Social Philosophy (2017)
Journal of the American Philosophical Association (2023)
Minds and Machines (2024, 2025)
Moral Philosophy and Politics (2017)
National Science Foundation (2019, 2020, 2025)
NeurIPS Conference [Meta-reviewer for ethical impact] (2020, 2024, 2025)
Oxford Bibliographies (2017)
Oxford University Press (2020, 2021, 2022, 2023)
Philosophical Quarterly (2019)
Philosophical Studies (2021, 2022)
Public Management Review (2022)

Public Performance and Management Review (2024)
Perspectives on Public Management and Governance (PPMG) (2024, 2025)
Science and Engineering Ethics (2019, 2020, 2021)
Synthese (2017, 2019, 2023, 2025, 2026)
Theoria (2020)
Thought (2019, 2024)
Zeitschrift für praktische Philosophie (2016)