Troy Polidori

University of Tennessee Department of Philosophy 801 McClung Tower

Knoxville, TN 37966

Email: tpolidor@vols.utk.edu

## Research Interests

**Areas of Specialization**: Normative Ethics, Value Theory, Social and Political Philosophy

**Areas of Competence**: Applied Ethics, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Action, Analytic/Continental Divide, Post-Kantian Philosophy

## Education

2019 – Present (expected 2025) PhD, Philosophy

*University of Tennessee, Knoxville*

Dissertation Committee:

Jon Garthoff (chair)

Adam Cureton

Kristina Gehrman

Thomas Haddox

Dissertation title: *Tragedy and Morality*

Summary: I provide an account of tragedy as a phenomenon in practical life broadly construed. Tragedy does not fundamentally consist in the irresolvable conflict of values (moral or otherwise), but in the inhospitality of the world to what matters. I argue that this account reorients our understanding of the tragic aspect of moral dilemmas in a way that makes sense of how moral obligations can hold in tragic circumstances. It also illuminates the characteristic phenomenology associated with the experience of tragedy.

2017 - 2019 MA, Philosophy

*California State University, Los Angeles*

2008 - 2009 MTh, Theology and Religious Studies

*University of Aberdeen*

2004 – 2008 BA, Biblical Studies

*The Master’s College*

**Teaching** 

# University of Tennessee

2022-2024 Instructor

*Contemporary Moral Problems*

2021-2022 Graduate Teaching Assistant

*Professional Responsibility* (Ryan Windeknecht)

2021 Instructor

*Intro to Philosophy*

2019-2020 Graduate Teaching Assistant

*Intro to Philosophy* (Kristina Gehrman)

*Contemporary Moral Problems* (Adam Cureton)

# Antelope Valley College

2016-2018 Instructor

*Intro to Philosophy*

*World Religions*

*Philosophy of Religion*

# College of the Canyons

2013-2018 Instructor

*Intro to Philosophy*

*Critical Reasoning*

## Papers

“Tragedy and Moral Theory” (in preparation)

“Tragedy as an Independent Real-World Phenomenon,” *The Interdisciplinary Journal of Human and Social Studies* Vol. 2.3 (2023), 15-25.

“Persistent Beliefs,” *Philosophy in Practice* Vol. 12 (2018), 1-15.

## Presentations

“The Domains of Tragedy”

Delivered at the UTK Epistemology/Ethics Writing Group (2024)

“Tragedy as an Independent Real-World Phenomenon”

Delivered at the Tennessee Philosophical Association Conference (2023)

Delivered at the UTK Epistemology/Ethics Writing Group (2023)

Commentary on Brian Ribeiro, “A Sorites Paradox for Personal Identity”

Delivered at the annual Tennessee Philosophical Association Conference (2023)

## Book Reviews

Review of *Ricoeur on Time and Narrative: An Introduction to Temps Et Recit*, by William C. Dowling (University of Notre Dame Press '11), The Heythrop Journal 56.6 (2015), 1071-1072.

Review of *Philosophical Hermeneutics Reinterpreted: Dialogues with Existentialism, Pragmatism, Critical Theory and Postmodernism*, by Paul Fairfield (Continuum '11), The Heythrop Journal 55.4 (2014), 745-746.

Review of *After the Postsecular and the Postmodern: New Essays in Continental Philosophy of Religion*, ed. by A. Smith & D. Whistler (Cambridge Scholars Pr. '10), The Heythrop Journal 54.2 (2013), 338-339.

Review of *A Genealogy of Marion's Philosophy of Religion: Apparent Darkness*, by Tamsin Jones (Indiana UP '11), The Heythrop Journal 54.2 (2013), 335-336.

## Awards

2024 Prados Summer Dissertation Fellowship

*University of Tennessee*

2024-25 Yates Dissertation Fellowship

*University of Tennessee*

2024 Richard Aquila Essay Prize for “Tragedy as an Independent Real-World Phenomenon”

*University of Tennessee*

2023 John Hardwig Teaching Prize

*University of Tennessee*

2021 Richard Aquila Essay Prize Runner-Up for “Three Formulations of the Highest Good”

*University of Tennessee*

2019-2023 Graduate Excellence Fellowship

*University of Tennessee*

2019 J. Wallace and Katie Dean Graduate Fellowship

*University of Tennessee*

2018 Alfred B. Glathe Award & Scholarship

*California State University, Los Angeles*

## Service

2022 PGSA President, Conference Organizer

*UTK Philosophy Graduate Student Association*

2020-2023 Conference Committee Member

*UTK Philosophy Graduate Student Association*

2020-2023 Judge

*Tennessee High School Ethics Bowl*

**Graduate Coursework**

# University of Tennessee

*The Nature and Value of Thought* (Jon Garthoff, audited)

*Marx* (Richard Eldridge, audited)

*Meaning and Morality* (Jon Garthoff)

*Naming and Necessity* (Jon Garthoff)

*Environmental Ethics* (John Nolt)

*Epistemic Dimensions of Agency* (EJ Coffman)

*The History of the Idea of Nature* (Kristina Gehrman)

*Obligation, Judgment, and Character* (Jon Garthoff)

*Kant* (Richard Edlrdige)

*Hegel* (Richard Edlrdige)

*Quine, Chomsky, Davidson* (Richard Edlrdige, audited)

*The Nature and Value of Consciousness* (Jon Garthoff)

# California State University, Los Angeles

*Existentialism* (Michael Shim)

*Philosophy of Mind: The Quality of Thought* (David Pitt)

*Metaphysics: Intimacy, Gender, and Personhood* (Talia Bettcher)

*Ethics* (Richard Dean)

*Metaphysics* (David Pitt)

*Advanced Philosophical Writing, Journal Editing and Production* (Michael Shim)

*Bioethics* (Richard Dean)

*Philosophy of Mind* (David Pitt)

*Symbolic Logic* (Mark Balaguer)

*Philosophy of Language* (David Pitt)

*Kant’s Ethics* (Richard Dean)

**References**

# University of Tennessee

Dr. Jonathan Garthoff, Director of Graduate Studies, Philosophy ([garthoff@utk.edu](mailto:garthoff@utk.edu))

Dr. Kristina Gehrman, Faculty, Philosophy ([kgehrma1@utk.edu](mailto:kgehrma1@utk.edu))

Dr. Richard Eldridge, Emeritus, Philosophy ([reldrid8@utk.edu](mailto:reldrid8@utk.edu))

**California State University, Los Angeles**

Dr. David Pitt, Department Chair, Philosophy ([dpitt@calstatela.edu](mailto:dpitt@calstatela.edu))

Dr. Richard Dean, Faculty, Philosophy (rdean@calstatela.edu)