

William J. Berger

PhD, Political Science

CONTACT INFORMATION

Dept. of Philosophy
University at Buffalo
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Buffalo, NY 14221

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EMPLOYMENT

Research Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy,
University at Buffalo

2025 – present

PPE Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy,
University of North Carolina

2024

Teaching Assistant Professor, Political Economy & Moral Science,
Affiliated Faculty, Department of Philosophy,
University of Arizona

2021 – 2023

Post-Doctoral Fellow, Philosophy, Politics & Economics
University of Pennsylvania

2017 – 2021

Visiting Scholar, Center for the Study of Complex Systems,
University of Michigan

2015 – 2017

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Political Science, **University of Michigan**
NSF IGERT Fellow

August 2015

Thesis Title: *Affective Trust and the Role of Social Norms in Constructing Faith in Others*.
Committee: Don Herzog (chair), Arlene Saxonhouse, Jenna Bednar, and Elizabeth Anderson (outside).

A.B., Religious Studies, **The University of Chicago**

June 2005

Thesis Title: *The Role of God in the Covenant Tradition of 17th Century England*
Advisor: Jean B. Elshtain

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Democratic theory; Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE); trust and polarization;
political epistemology; experimental methods, computational modeling.

- Berger, William J. "Trust Without Trustworthiness: Non-Rational Trust in Low Information Environments." (under review)
- Berger, William J., Samara Klar, and Chad Westerland. "The Court as Government Subsidiary: The US Supreme Courts Legitimacy" (under review)
- Berger, William J., Justin Bruner, and Ryan Muldoon. "Strategic Spillover: From Local Habits to Civic Practices" (in preparation)
- Grim, Patrick, Daniel J. Singer, Aaron Bramson, Jiin Jung, Bennett Holman, and William J. Berger. "How Diversity Helps Jury Decisions" In *Agent-Based Modeling for Research on Groups, Networks, and Organizations*. Edited by Corinne Coen and James Larson. American Psychological Association, (forthcoming).
- Berger, William J., Daniel J. Singer, Patrick Grim, Aaron Bramson, Bennett Holman, and Jiin Jung. "The Epistemic Advantages of Representative Deliberation." *PLOS ONE*. (2026): 21(7): e0353387.
- Grim, Patrick, Daniel J. Singer, Aaron Bramson, Bennett Holman, Jiin Jung, and William J. Berger. "The Epistemic Role of Diversity in Juries: An Agent-Based Model." *Journal of Artificial Societies and Social Simulation*, 27:1 (2024).
- Berger, William J., Adam C. Sales, Konrad R. Dabrowski, and Jake A Robinson. "Lessons Learned from Pooled Testing of Covid-19." *Associative Journal of Health Sciences*, 2:1 (2022).
- Berger, William J., Daniel J. Singer, Aaron Bramson, Patrick Grim, Jiin Jung, and Bennett Holman. "Philosophical Considerations of Political Polarization." In *The Political Turn in Analytic Philosophy: Reflections on Social Injustice and Oppression*. Edited by David Bordonaba and Vctor Castro. De Gruyter, (2022): 279 - 298.
- Singer, Daniel J., Patrick Grim, Aaron Bramson, Bennett Holman, Jiin Jung, and William J. Berger. "Epistemic Networks and Polarization." In *The Routledge Handbook of Political Epistemology*. Edited by Michael Hannon, Jeroen de Ridder. Routledge, (2021):133-144.
- Grim, Patrick, Aaron Bramson, Daniel J. Singer, William J. Berger, Jiin Jung, and Scott Page. "Representation in Models of Epistemic Democracy." *Episteme*, 17.4 (2020): 498-518.
- Berger, William J., and Adam Sales. "Testing Epistemic Democracy's Majority Rule Results." *Philosophy, Politics, and Economics*, 19:1 (2020).
- Berger, William J. "A Sympathetic Reading of Emerson's Politics." *Humanitas*, 32:1 (2019).
- Berger, William J. "Deconstructing Batman's Legitimacy: The Radical Political Critique of Christopher Nolan's Batman Cycle." In *Politics in Gotham: The Batman Universe and Political Thought*, edited by Damien Picariello. Palgrave Macmillan, (2019): 57-74.
- Singer, Daniel J., Aaron Bramson, Patrick Grim, Bennett Holman, Keren Kovaka, Jiin Jung, and William J. Berger. "Don't Forget Forgetting: The Social Epistemic Importance of How We Forget." *Synthese*, (2019).
- Grim, Patrick, Daniel J. Singer, Aaron Bramson, Bennett Holman, Sean McGeehan and William J. Berger. "Diversity, Ability, and Expertise in Epistemic Communities." *Philosophy of Science*, 86.1 (2019): 98 – 123.

PAPERS CONT.

- Jung, Jiin, Patrick Grim, Daniel J. Singer, Aaron Bramson, William J. Berger, Bennet Holman, and Karen Kovaka. "A Multidisciplinary Understanding of Polarization." *American Psychologist*, 74.3 (2019): 301–314.
- Singer, Daniel J., Aaron Bramson, Patrick Grim, Bennett Holman, Jiin Jung, Karen Kovaka, Anika Ranginani, and William J. Berger. "Rational Social and Political Polarization." *Philosophical Studies*, 176.9 (2018): 2243–2267.
- Holman, Bennett, William J. Berger, Daniel J. Singer, Patrick Grim, and Aaron Bramson. "Diversity and Democracy – Agent Based Modeling in Political Philosophy." *Historical Social Research*, 43.1 (2018): 259–278.
- Bramson, Aaron, Patrick Grim, Daniel J. Singer, William J. Berger, Graham Sack, Steven Fisher, Carissa Flocken, and Bennett Holman. "Understanding Polarization: Meanings, Measures, and Model Evaluation." *Philosophy of Science*, 84.01 (2017): 115–159.
- Bramson, Aaron, Patrick Grim, Daniel J. Singer, Steven Fisher, William J. Berger, Graham Sack, and Carissa Flocken. "Disambiguation of Social Polarization Concepts and Measures" *The Journal of Mathematical Sociology* 40.02 (2016).
- Berger, William J. Review of *Meeting at Grand Central Station: Understanding the Social and Evolutionary Roots of Cooperation*, by Lee Cronk and Beth Leech. *Journal of Politics*, 76.03 (2014).
- Berger, William J. Review of *Jane Austen, Game Theorist*, by Michael Suk-Young Chwe. *Journal of Politics*, 76.03 (2014).
- Grim, Patrick, Daniel J. Singer, Steven Fisher, Aaron Bramson, William J. Berger, and Carissa Flocken. "Philosophical Analysis in Modeling Polarization: Notes from Work in Progress." In *Complexity and the Human Experience: Modeling Complexity in the Humanities and Social Sciences*, edited by Paul A. Youngman and Mirsad Hadzikadic. Singapore: Pan Stanford Press, (2014): 11–38.
- Grim, Patrick, Daniel J. Singer, Steven Fisher, Aaron Bramson, William Berger, Christopher Reade, Carissa Flocken, and Adam Sales. "Scientific Networks on Data Landscapes: Question Difficulty, Epistemic Success, and Convergence." *Episteme* 10.04 (2013): 441–464.
- Grim, Patrick, Bramson, Aaron; Singer, Daniel; Fisher, Steven; Flocken, Carissa; and William Berger. "Conceptual Analysis in Modeling Polarization: Notes from a Work in Progress." *APA Newsletter on Philosophy and Computers* 12.01 (2012): 7.

NON-ACADEMIC

- Berger, William J., and Konrad Dabrowski, Jake Robinson, and Adam Sales, "A Statistical Approach to Batched Prevalence Testing for Coronavirus" (March 30, 2020). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3564340>
- Berger, William J., Conor Carroll, Hanh La, Katherina M. Rosqueta. "We the People: A Philanthropic Guide to Strengthening Democracy." *Center for High Impact Philanthropy at the University of Pennsylvania*, (2019)
- Steinberg, Gerald, and William Berger. "Evaluating International Approaches to Security and Aid Following Disengagement in Gaza." *JCPA Viewpoints*, December, (2004).

CONFERENCE
PRESENTATIONS

- Berger, William J., Justin Bruner, and Ryan Muldoon. "The Dynamics of Spillover: From Local Habits to Civic Norms" PPE Society New Orleans, November 2026.
- Berger, William J. "Affective Trust and Matched Norms: Arational Trust in Low Information Environments" Markets & Society, October 2026.
- Berger, William J., Justin Bruner, and Ryan Muldoon. "The Dynamics of Spillover: From Local Habits to Civic Norms" PPE Society London, July 2026.
- Neiheisel, Jacob R., Alexandra Oprea, and William J. Berger. "What Are You Going To Do About It? Beyond Mere Toleration of and among People of Faith." Stanford Workshop on Religion in Politics, May 2026.
- Oprea, Alexandra, and William J. Berger, Jacob Neiheisel, and Ryan Muldoon. "Political Polarization and Social Norms" PPE Society, November 2025.
- Berger, William J., Justin Bruner, and Ryan Muldoon. "The Dynamics of Spillover: From Local Habits to Civic Norms" Markets & Society, October 2025.
- Berger, William J., Patrick Grim, Daniel Singer, Aaron Bramson, Jiin Jung, and Bennet Holman, "Epistemic Democracy and the Advantages of Representation: When Less (Evidence) is More (Epistemic Success)" SUNY – Buffalo PPE at the Frontier, June 2025.
- Berger, William J. "What We Mean When We Discuss Inequality" MPSA, April 2025.
- Berger, William J., "How Social Norms Motivate Affective Trust" UNC Applied Epistemology Workshop, November 2024.
- Berger, William J., Samara Klar, and Chad Westerland. "The Court as Government Subsidiary: A New Take on the US Supreme Courts Legitimacy" AAPOR, May 2024.
- Berger, William J. "The Court as Government Subsidiary: A New Take on the US Supreme Courts Legitimacy" MPSA, April 2024.
- Berger, William J., Patrick Grim, Daniel Singer, Aaron Bramson, Jiin Jung, and Bennet Holman, "Epistemic Democracy and the Advantages of Representation: When Less (Evidence) is More (Epistemic Success)" UNC Annual PPE Workshop, August 2024.
- Berger, William J., Patrick Grim, Daniel Singer, Aaron Bramson, Jiin Jung, and Bennet Holman, "Epistemic Democracy and the Advantages of Representation: When Less (Evidence) is More (Epistemic Success)" APSA, September 2023.
- Berger, William J. "Responding to Empirical Worries of Epistemic Democracy." Centre de recherche en thique (CRE), May, 2017.
- Berger, William J. "Validating Democratic Theory." PPE Society Meeting, March, 2017.
- Berger, William J. "Faith and the Hobbesian Covenant." APT, October, 2016.
- Berger, William J. "Federalism and the Epistemic Virtues of Democracy Through Experimentation." APSA, September, 2016.
- Singer, Daniel J., Patrick Grim, Aaron Bramson, Bennett Holman, Karen Kovaka, Jiin Jung, Anika Ranginani, and William J. Berger, "Group Polarization as a Limitedly Rational Response to Evidence," Decision Games & Logic, University of Michigan July 2016.
- Grim, Patrick, Daniel J. Singer, Aaron Bramson, William J. Berger, Jiin Jung, and Scott Page, "Votes and Talk: Sorrows and Success of Representative Democracy," poster presentation, Decision Games & Logic, University of Michigan July 2016.

PRESENTATIONS
CONT.

- Berger, William J. "How I Learned to Stop Worrying about the Fact/Value Distinction and Love the Epistemic Virtues of Majority Rule: Two Responses." MPSA, April 2016.
- Berger, William J. "The Politically Constitutive Role of Affective Trust." MPSA, April 2016.
- Grim, Patrick, Aaron Bramson, Daniel J. Singer, William J. Berger, Jiin Jung, and Scott Page. "Epistemic Sorrows and Triumphs of Representative Democracy: Condorcet and Hong-Page" Political Networks. Portland, OR, June 2015.
- Berger, William J. "Responsiveness as an Answer to the Paucity of Multi-Issue Consent." MPSA. Chicago, IL, April 2015.
- Berger, William J. "Voting as Betting: An Endorsement of Landemore's Arguments for Majority Rule." MPSA. Chicago, IL, April 2014.
- Berger, William J. "Context and the Development of Affective Trust." APT. Nashville, TN, October 2013.
- Berger, William J. "Making Sense of the Trust of Institutions: Dewey, Habit, and Trust." Modeling the Dynamics of Norms and Culture. Ann Arbor, MI, May 2013.
- Grim, Patrick, Daniel Singer, Aaron Bramson, William J. Berger, Christopher Reade, Carissa Flocken, Steven Fischer, and Adam Sales. "Scientific Networks on Data Landscapes: Question Difficulty, Epistemic Success and Convergence." Choosing the Future of Science: The Social Organization of Scientific Inquiry. Pittsburgh, PA, April 2013
- Berger, William J. "In Lieu of Information: Towards a Structure of Affective Trust." MPSA, April 2013.
- Berger, William J. "A Sympathetic Reading of Emerson's Politics: An Agent Based Approach." APSA. September 2011.
- Berger, William J. "Yeah? Try and Make Me: The Decalogue as Self-Enforcing Constitution." NEPSA. April 2011.
- Berger, William J. "Emerson, Skepticism, and Politics." MPSA. April 2010.

TEACHING

- Research Assistant Professor, **University at Buffalo**,
- | | |
|--|------|
| PHI 104: Introduction to Political Philosophy, | 2026 |
| PHI 185: Modeling in PPE, | 2025 |
- PPE Assistant Professor, **University of North Carolina**,
- | | |
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| Reading Group: <i>Election Day</i> by Emilee Chapman, | 2024 |
| PHIL 364: Ethics and Economics, | 2024 |
| PHIL 280: Philosophy of Law, | 2024 |
| PHIL 698: PPE Capstone: Survey Methods, | 2024 |
- Lecturer, **University of Arizona**,
- | | |
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| PPEL 555: Institutions, Choice, and Evolution, | 2023 |
| PPEL 437: Social and Moral Evolution, | 2022 |

PPEL 302: Ethics of Wealth Creation,	2022-23
PPEL 205: Ethics of Wealth Creation,	2021-22
PPEL 250: Social Contract,	2021-22
PPEL 150: Capitalism and Socialism,	2021

Post-Doc, **University of Pennsylvania,**

PPE 481: Trust and Cooperation,	2020, 2021
PPE 481: Theo. and Emp. Approaches to Inequality in Political Life,	2019
PPE 402: Research Practicum,	2018-21
PLSC 181: Introduction to Modern Political Thought,	2018
PPE 473: Quantitative Models Across PPE,	2017-18
BDS 517: Trust and Uncertainties,	2018

WORKING GROUP **Behavioral Ethics Lab, PPE Society, Computational Social Philosophy Lab.**

AFFILIATION

SKILLS R, Netlogo, Excel, Hebrew (*proficient*), Arabic (*intermediate*).

REFERENCES Available upon request