

## Aidan Elise Kestigian

### University Address

Miner Hall 223A  
Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life  
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### Online

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Program Manager**, Tufts University April 2018 - present  
**Metric Geometry & Gerrymandering Group**  
*Strategic planning, public outreach, and academic program design (including instruction).*  
**Science, Technology, & Society Program**  
*Curriculum design, program organization, and program assessment.*

## EDUCATION

*Doctorate of Philosophy*, Logic, Computation, and Methodology August 2018  
Department of Philosophy, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, USA  
Dissertation Title: “Democratic Voting and the Common Good”  
Dissertation Committee: Dr. Danielle Wenner (CMU; Chair), Dr. Alex John London (CMU),  
Dr. Victoria Shineman (UPitt)

*Master of Science*, Logic, Computation, and Methodology January 2015  
Department of Philosophy, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, USA  
Thesis Title: “Voting in Epistemic Democracies”  
Thesis Committee: Dr. Kevin Zollman (CMU; Chair), Dr. Danielle Wenner (CMU)

*Bachelor of Arts*, Philosophy and Mathematics, *summa cum laude* May 2012  
Wheaton College, Norton, MA, USA  
Honors: Phi Beta Kappa, Departmental Honors in Philosophy

## AREAS OF RESEARCH SPECIALIZATION

Social & Political Philosophy (especially Democratic Theory), Applied Ethics, Voting Theory

## ADDITIONAL AREAS OF TEACHING COMPETENCE

Normative Ethics, American Electoral Behavior, Logic

## PUBLICATIONS

\***Aidan Kestigian**. “Freedom as Non-Domination in Behavioral and Biomedical Research.” Forthcoming in *Research Ethics*.

\***Aidan Kestigian**. (2017). “Blogging as Practice in Applied Philosophy.” *Teaching Philosophy*. 40.2, 181-200.

\***Aidan Kestigian** and Alex John London. (2016). “Adversaries at the Bedside: Advance Care Plans and Future Welfare.” *Bioethics*. 30.8, 557-567.

\* Indicates primary authorship.

## DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

### *Democratic Voting and the Common Good*

Proponents of deliberative democracy believe that political communities should make decisions through public discussion rather than mere majority voting. This project will focus on two claims deliberative democrats make to argue for deliberative systems, and will ask whether those claims can be substantiated. The first claim is that groups that participate in public deliberation before voting are more likely to select policies that promote the common good than those who do not deliberate. I will argue that this claim lacks justification, and therefore we cannot accept it as a reason to implement deliberative democratic structures in real political systems. The second claim says that deliberation is morally required for public decision making because the act of deliberating has moral worth, while the act of voting does not. But as I will argue, the normative principles that underlie deliberation give moral weight to voting as well. This shows that deliberative democrats are committed to the claim that the act of voting has moral value. As a result, we should question the strong empirical and normative distinctions deliberative democrats draw between deliberation and voting procedures.

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

“Bridge Technologies and the Hazards of Sequential Decision Making,” co-authored with Alex John London

“Does Deliberation Improve Voting? A Systematic Review”

## AWARDS

*Carnegie Mellon University Graduate Student Teaching Award* 2018

*Dietrich College of Humanities and Social Sciences Graduate Student Teaching Award* 2017  
Carnegie Mellon University

*Grace F. Shepard Phi Beta Kappa Scholarship* 2012  
Wheaton College

*Holcombe M. Austin Prize in Philosophy* 2012  
Wheaton College

## PRESENTATIONS

- “Requiring Advance Care Plans” March 2018  
Conference: Second Annual PPE Society Meeting  
Location: New Orleans, LA, USA
- “Using Blogs in the Political Theory Classroom” February 2017  
Conference: American Political Science Association Teaching & Learning Conference  
Location: Long Beach, CA, USA
- “Voting to Promote the Common Good” November 2016  
Conference: Northeastern Political Science Association Annual Meeting  
Location: Boston, MA, USA
- “Blogging as Practice in Applied Philosophy” October 2016  
Conference: Carnegie Mellon University Teaching & Learning Summit  
Location: Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, USA
- “(In)Equality in the American Political System: A Case Study in Group Blogging”  
1. Seminar: Exploring Educational Technologies and Their Pedagogical Applications March 2016  
Organized by the Eberly Center for Teaching Excellence  
Location: Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, USA  
2. Technology-Enhanced Learning (TEL) Summer School May 2016  
Location: Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, USA
- “Freedom as Non-Domination in Behavioral and Biomedical Research” March 2016  
Conference: American Philosophical Association Central Meeting 2016  
Location: Chicago, IL, USA
- “Reliable Decision Making in Epistemic Democracies” June 2015  
Conference: Decisions, Games, and Logic  
Location: London School of Economics and Political Science, London, UK
- “Adversaries at the Bedside: Present Choice and Future Welfare”  
1. Conference: University of Miami Graduate Student Conference in Philosophy October 2014  
Location: University of Miami, Miami, FL, USA  
2. Conference: BGSU Graduate Workshop in Applied Philosophy November 2014  
Location: Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH, USA
- “Rational Decision Making in Deliberative Democracies” November 2014  
Conference: Northeastern Political Science Association Annual Meeting  
Location: Boston, MA, USA

## ADDITIONAL CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Response to Zoë Johnson King, “Trying is Good” April 2016  
Conference: Pitt-CMU Graduate Student Conference in Philosophy  
Location: University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

Response to Jian Shen, “Gradual Revelation: A Signaling Model” March 2014  
Conference: Pitt-CMU Graduate Student Conference in Philosophy  
Location: University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

*Course Instructor*, Carnegie Mellon University  
Automation, AI, and Society (co-taught with Máté Szabó) Spring 2018  
Introduction to Philosophy Spring 2017, Summer 2017  
Ethics and Global Economics Fall 2016  
Ethical Judgments in Professional Life Summer 2016  
Social Structure, Public Policy, and Ethics Spring 2016  
Introduction to Ethics Summer 2014, Fall 2015  
Introduction to Political Philosophy Summer 2013

*Teaching Assistant/Grader*, Carnegie Mellon University  
Ancient Philosophy Fall 2014  
Ethical Theory Spring 2014  
Environmental Ethics Fall 2013  
Social Structure, Public Policy, and Ethics Spring 2013

## PEDAGOGICAL AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

*Workshop on Teaching and Learning, Special Emphasis on Inclusive Pedagogy* February 2017  
Organized by American Association of Philosophy Teachers  
University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

*Graduate Teaching Fellows Program* December 2016-Present  
Eberly Center for Teaching Excellence and Educational Innovation  
Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

*Virginia Tech Future Faculty Program* January 2017  
Virginia Tech University, Blacksburg, VA, USA

*2016 Seminar on Teaching and Learning in Philosophy* July 2016  
American Association of Philosophy Teachers Biennial Workshop/Conference on Teaching Philosophy  
Saginaw Valley State University, Saginaw, MI, USA

*Future Faculty Program* Completed Spring 2016  
Eberly Center for Teaching Excellence and Educational Innovation  
Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

*Digital Humanities Literacy Workshop*  
Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

Completed Summer 2015

*Technology-Enhanced Learning Summer School*  
Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

Completed Summer 2015

### DEPARTMENTAL, UNIVERSITY, AND DISCIPLINARY SERVICE

Selection Committee, Carnegie Mellon University Teaching Innovation Award  
Position: Committee Member

Fall 2017-Present

Reviewer, *Teaching Philosophy*

Summer 2016-Present

Center for Ethics and Policy 2016 Workshop on Exploitation and Coercion  
Position: Program Committee Member

Fall 2016

Philosophy Department Job Search Committee

Position: Committee Member Fall 2016-Spring 2017 Position: Committee Member

Fall 2014-Spring 2015

Philosophy Department Graduate Admissions Committee

Position: Committee Member

Fall 2014-Spring 2015

Minorities and Philosophy (MAP) Chapter, Carnegie Mellon University

Position: Chapter member

Spring 2016-Present

Position: Co-Chair

Fall 2013-Spring 2016

Pitt-CMU Graduate Student Conference in Philosophy Organizing Committee

Position: Committee Chair

Fall 2014-Fall 2015

Position: Committee Member

Fall 2013-Fall 2014

### MEMBERSHIPS

American Philosophical Association

American Association of Philosophy Teachers

American Political Science Association

Northeastern Political Science Association

## PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Dr. Danielle Wenner

Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Associate Director, Center for Ethics and Policy  
Department of Philosophy, Carnegie Mellon University  
dwenner@andrew.cmu.edu / (412) 268-8046

Dr. Alex John London

Clara L. West Professor of Ethics and Philosophy and Director, Center for Ethics and Policy  
Department of Philosophy, Carnegie Mellon University  
ajlondon@andrew.cmu.edu / (412) 268-4938

Dr. Maralee Harrell

Teaching Professor  
Department of Philosophy, Carnegie Mellon University  
mharrell@cmu.edu / (412) 268-8152

Dr. Kevin Zollman

Associate Professor of Philosophy  
Department of Philosophy, Carnegie Mellon University  
kzollman@andrew.cmu.edu / (412) 268-8493

Dr. Victoria Shineman

Assistant Professor of Political Science  
Department of Political Science, University of Pittsburgh  
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