

Jean Kazez

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Southern Methodist University
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Education

PhD Philosophy, University of Arizona, 1990
MA Philosophy, Boston University, 1985
BA Classics (Summa Cum Laude), Pennsylvania State University, 1977
BA Philosophy (Summa Cum Laude), Pennsylvania State University, 1977

Academic Positions

Adjunct Assistant Professor, Southern Methodist University, 1998-present
Assistant Professor, Southern Methodist University, 1991-1996
(resigned after medical and maternity leave)
Lecturer, University of Texas at Austin, 1990-1991

Areas of specialization

Applied Ethics: theories of well-being, animal rights, ethics of procreation, aging

Areas of competence

Ethics, Philosophy of Mind, Animal Minds

Books

The Philosophical Parent: Asking the Hard Questions about Having and Raising Children, Oxford University Press, 2017

- Philosophical problems we encounter in the course of becoming parents and raising children, in chronological order. Topics include deciding to have children, the ethics of optimizing our children, when life begins, childbirth, custody, circumcision, gender education, stay-at-home parents, lying to children, religious education, duties of adult children to their parents, and the happiness or meaning we derive from parenthood.
- Endorsements: Julian Baggini, Christine Overall, Berit Brogaard, Michael W. Austin
- Media: interviewed by Krys Boyd on Think! (KERA) in 2017; interviewed by Robert Talisse on Books in Philosophy (podcast) in 2017.

Animalkind: What We Owe to Animals, Wiley-Blackwell, 2010

- An interdisciplinary exploration of ethics and animals. I consider how the status of animals has been understood within various cultures, religions, and historical circumstances; and how it's been understood by philosophers over time. Claims

about human-animal differences are tested against the latest work in ethology and comparative psychology. The core of the book is an account of the moral status of animals that rejects recent egalitarian orthodoxies, but nevertheless advocates for major changes in the way animals are treated. The final chapters look closely at rationalizations for eating animals and at contemporary issues such as animal experimentation and the extinction of species.

- Translated into Portuguese.
- Endorsements: Peter Singer, Temple Grandin, Marc Bekoff
- Reviews: Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews, Times Higher Education, Booklist, TSO, VegNews, The Philosophers' Magazine, Between the Species, Philosophy in Review, The Philosopher, BBC Wildlife Magazine
- Media: interviewed by Krys Boyd on Think! (KERA) in 2010

The Weight of Things: Philosophy and the Good Life, Wiley-Blackwell, 2007

- An exploration of the nature of the good life. The book delves deeply into theoretical questions while always staying close to the everyday concerns of people struggling with real-life questions. Some topics covered include: the priority of morality, the role of reason and luck in the good life, issues about religion, permanence, and death, the centrality of happiness, and values like autonomy and personal progress. The book draws on recent philosophy and the history of philosophy, as well as history, literature, movies, and personal experience.
- Translated into Korean, Portuguese, and Persian.
- Chapter 5 reprinted in *Fundamentals of Ethics* (Russ Shafer-Landau, ed.), Oxford University Press.
- Endorsements: Edward Langerak, Marcia McKelligan
- Reviews: The Guardian, Church Times, Choice Magazine
- Media: interviewed by Krys Boyd on Think! (KERA) in 2007

Academic Articles and Reviews

"Old Age as a Stage of Life," *Journal of Applied Philosophy*, July 2023

Review of *Aging Thoughtfully: Conversations About Retirement, Romance, Wrinkles, and Regret* (Martha Nussbaum and Saul Levmore), *Essays in Philosophy* 19 (1):138-145

"The Taste Issue in Animal Ethics," *Journal of Applied Philosophy*, July 2017

"Should the Great Apes be Used in Biomedical Research? No" *Current Debates in Bioethics* (Arthur Caplan and Robert Arp, eds.), Wiley-Blackwell, 2013

"Can Counterfactuals Save Mental Causation?" *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, 73:71-90, 1995

Review of Dan Lloyd, *Simple Minds*, *Philosophical Review*, 103:718-20, 1994

"Computationalism and the Causal Role of Content," *Philosophical Studies*, 75:231-260, 1994

Review of C. Anthony Anderson and Joseph Owens, ed., *Propositional Attitudes: The Role of Content in Logic, Language and Mind*, *Notre Dame Journal of Formal Logic*, 35:299-309, 1994

Review of Greg McCulloch, *The Game of the Name*, *Mind* 99: 647-650, 1990

Public Philosophy

Arts and reviews editor, *The Philosophers' Magazine*, 2010-2023

Columnist, *The Philosophers' Magazine*, 2008-2023

Guest Editor, *The Philosophers' Magazine*, Issue 95, 2021

Guest Editor, *The Philosophers' Magazine*, Issue 91, 2020

News analyst, *The Prindle Post*, 2017-2018

Guest editor, "Is it Wrong to Have Children? (forum)," *The Philosophers' Magazine*, Issue 75, 2016

Review of *Life is Hard: How Philosophy Can Help Us Find Our Way* (Kieran Setiya), *The Philosophers' Magazine*, Issue 99, 2023

Review of *What We Owe the Future* (William MacAskill), *The Philosophers' Magazine*, Issue 98, 2022

Review of *The Right to Sex* (Amia Srinivasan), *The Philosophers' Magazine*, Issue 96, 2021

"Off the Beaten Track" (Interview with Alex Guerrero), *The Philosophers' Magazine* Issue 94, 2021

"Sex and Gender" (interview with Sophie Grace Chappell), *The Philosophers' Magazine*, Issue 90, 2020

"Life Doesn't Begin at Conception," *The Philosophers' Magazine*, Issue 79, 2017

Review of *Other Minds* (Peter Godfrey Smith), *The Philosophers' Magazine*, Issue 78, 2017

Review of *The Minority Body: A Theory of Disability* (Elizabeth Barnes), *The Philosophers' Magazine*, Issue 75, 2016

"Our Children, Ourselves," *The Philosophers' Magazine*, Issue 70, 2015

Review of *The Atheist's Guide to Reality* (Alex Rosenberg), *Free Inquiry* July/August 2012

"Family Ties," *The Philosophers' Magazine*, Issue 53, 2011

Review of *The Life You Can Save* (Peter Singer), *The Philosophers' Magazine*, Issue 46, 2009

Review of *The Ethics Lab* (Kwame Anthony Appiah), *The Philosophers' Magazine*, Issue 41, 2008

25 entries and essays in *The Chambers Dictionary of Beliefs and Religions* (Mark Vernon, ed.), Chambers-Harrap, 2009

"Dying to Eat: The Vegetarian Ethics of *Twilight*." In *Twilight and Philosophy* (Rebecca Housel and Jeremy Wisniewski, eds.), Wiley-Blackwell 2009

"The Long and Winding Road." In *Mama PhD* (Elrena Evans and Caroline Grant, eds.), Rutgers University Press, 2008

Review of *Experiments in Ethics* (Kwame Anthony Appiah), *The Philosophers' Magazine*, Issue 41, 2008
Review of *Philosophers without Gods* (Louise Anthony, ed.), *Free Inquiry*, February/March 2008
"People Don't Die, Do They?" *Free Inquiry*, October/November 2007
"More Happiness Please," *Philosophy Now*, May/June 2007
"The Good Life and the Mommy Wars," *The Philosophers' Magazine*, Issue 38, 2007
"How Good Do We Have to Be?" *Philosophy Now*, November/December 2006

Talks

"Animal Projects," Keynote talk at grad student conference on animal ethics, Rice University, April 2024
"The Good Life and Old Age," Eastern Michigan University, April 2021
"Getting Meaning Out of College," Texas A&M Commerce, November 2018
"Children as Second Selves: Understanding the Right to Rear," The Philosophy of Pregnancy, Birth, and Early Motherhood Conference, University of Southampton, June 2018
"The Taste Issue in Animal Ethics," Animal Ethics Workshop, Texas State University, February 2017
Critical response to three papers in *The Moral Rights of Animals* (ed. Engel and Garrett), Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, August 2016
"Saints and Sinners," Dallas Museum of Art, February 2016
"Our Children, Our Selves," Dallas Philosophers' Forum, November 2015
"The paradox of age and happiness" SMU Philosophy Club, Fall 2013
"Is life meaningless?" Feminine Faces of Freethought conference, Fall 2012
"Do Animals Have Rights?" SMU Philosophy Club, Spring 2012
"Love and Death," SMU Secular Student Club, Spring 2012
"Why Are There So Few Women in Philosophy?" SMU Philosophy Club, Fall 2011
"Brave New Animal." Texas State University, September 2011
"Is Meat Green?" SMU Vegetarian Club, Fall 2010
"Animal Ethics without Equality." University of Arkansas, September 2010
"How Good Do We Have to Be?" The Dallas Philosopher's Forum, April 2007
Comments on Heimir Geirsson, "Truth in Belief Reports," Central Philosophical Association, October 1994
"Am I a Brain in a Vat, and Why Does it Matter?" The Dallas Philosopher's Forum, January 1994
Comments on "Mental Causation and Explanatory Exclusion," American Philosophical Association, Central Division, April 1993
"Computationalism and the Causal Role of Content," American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, March 1993
Comments on "Supervenience Redux," American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, March 1992

Invited Conferences

NEH Institute, "The Nature of Meaning," Rutgers University, Jerry Fodor and Ernest Lepore, directors, Summer 1993
Oberlin Colloquium, "Thought and Language," Oberlin University, April 1993

Honors and Awards

Fink Award (for outstanding graduate student in philosophy), University of Arizona, 1989
Riesen Award (for outstanding graduate student essay in philosophy), co-winner, University of Arizona, 1989
Borden Parker Bowne Fellowship (for outstanding graduate student in philosophy), Boston University, 1983
Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society, 1977

Service to Profession

Referee for Princeton University Press; Pacific Philosophical Quarterly; Routledge; The Journal of Ethics; The Journal of Medical Ethics; The Journal of Applied Ethics; Oxford University Press.

Teaching

I regularly teach Animal Rights; Topics in Moral Philosophy: The Meaning of Life; Environmental Ethics; and Topics in Moral Philosophy: Procreation and Parenthood.
I have also taught Philosophy of Literature; Introduction to Philosophy; Contemporary Moral Problems; Ancient Philosophy; Philosophy of Mind; Philosophy of Language; Philosophy and Gender; Logic; Critical Thinking; The Ethics of Sport; Lifespan Ethics.