# **Aaron Simmons**

Associate Professor of Philosophy

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**Areas of Specialization**

Ethical Theory, Applied Ethics (especially Biomedical Ethics and Environmental Ethics)

**Education**

### Bowling Green State University (1999-2006)

Ph.D. in Philosophy, May 2006

Dissertation: “In Defense of an Animal’s Right to Life”

Committee: R.G. Frey (Chair), Tom Regan, David Sobel, Juan Bouzat

#### M.A. in Philosophy, 2001

# Oberlin College (1994-98)

B.A. in Philosophy and Environmental Studies (double major), 1998

# High Honors in Philosophy

**Teaching Experience**

### Academic Positions

Associate Professor of Philosophy, Marywood University 2018-present

Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Marywood University 2013-2018

Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Grand Valley State University 2010-13

Adjunct Instructor of Philosophy, Wayne State University 2009-10

Adjunct Instructor of Philosophy, University of Detroit Mercy 2009-10

Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania 2008-9

Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Ohio Northern University 2006-8

Adjunct Lecturer in Philosophy, Ohio Northern University 2005-6

Graduate Student Instructor of Philosophy, Bowling Green State University 1999-2005

### Courses Taught

Animal Ethics

Biomedical Ethics

Business Ethics

Critical Thinking

Death and Dying

Environmental Ethics

Ethics

Ethics, Science, and Biotechnology

Healthcare and Social Justice

Intro to Philosophy

Logic

Philosophy & Democracy

Philosophy of Law

Professional Ethics

My teaching portfolio provides greater details regarding my teaching experience, my teaching goals, and both student and faculty evaluations of my courses.

**Journal Articles**

“In Defense of the Moral Significance of Empathy,” *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* 17 (1) (February 2014)

“Do Embryos Have Interests? Why Embryos Are Identical to Future Persons But Not Harmed by Death,” *Journal of Bioethical Inquiry* 9 (1) (March 2012)

“Two Arguments against Biological Interests,” *Environmental Ethics* 32 (Fall 2010)

“Do Animals Have an Interest in Continued Life? In Defense of a Desire-Based Approach” *Environmental Ethics* 31 (Winter 2009)

“Animals, Predators, the Right to Life, and the Duty to Save Lives,” *Ethics and the Environment* 14 (Spring 2009)

“A Critique of Mary Anne Warren’s Weak Animal Rights View,” *Environmental Ethics* 29 (Fall 2007)

**Chapters in Books**

“Animals, Freedom, and the Ethics of Veganism” in *Animal Ethics in the Age of Humans*, eds. Bernice Bovenkerk and Jozef Keulartz (New York: Springer, 2016)

“Do All Subjects-of-a-Life Have an Equal Right to Life? The Challenge of the Comparative Value of Life” in *The Moral Rights of Animals*, eds. Mylan Engel and Gary Comstock (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2016)

**Book Reviews**

Gary Steiner, “Animals and the Moral Community,” *Environmental Ethics* 32 (Spring 2010)

## Presentations

“On the Moral Standing of Enhanced Humans: What Is the Relevance of Intellectual Capacity to a Being’s Moral Standing?”

* Association for Practical and Professional Ethics, 25th Annual Meeting (Reston, VA), February 20, 2016

“Animals, Freedom, and the Ethics of Veganism”

* Animal Ethics in the Age of Humans: Blurring Boundaries of Human-Animal Relationships, (Wageningen University, Netherlands), November 26-27, 2015 (invited participant)
* Association for Practical and Professional Ethics, 24th Annual Meeting (Costa Mesa, CA), February 19, 2015
* Second Annual Workshop on Food Justice (Michigan State University), May 23-25, 2014

“Trading Lives: The Ethics of Killing Animals for Medical Research”

* Association for Practical and Professional Ethics, 23rd Annual Meeting (Jacksonville, FL), March 1, 2014 (winner of Best Formal Paper by Early Career Scholar Award)

“Teaching Applied Ethics: The Challenge of Empathetic Bias”

* International Conference on Ethics Across the Curriculum (Grand Rapids, MI), October 6, 2012

“Do All Subjects-of-a-Life Have an Equal Right to Life?”

* Tom Regan: A Celebration (NCSU, Raleigh, NC), April 15, 2011 (invited speaker)

“Do Embryos Have Interests? Why Embryos Have Future Adult Lives but Are Not Harmed from Death”

* Marywood University Philosophy Paper Series, March 5, 2015
* GVSU Philosophy Colloquium (Allendale, MI), October 1, 2010

“A Critique of Warren’s Weak Animal Rights View”

* Society for the Study of Ethics and Animals, American Philosophical Association, Eastern Meeting (NY, NY), December 28, 2005

“Do Animals Have Rights?”

* BGSU Philosophy Great Debate Series (Bowling Green, OH), February 25, 2002

## Awards

* Best Formal Paper by Early Career Scholar, Association for Practical and Professional Ethics, 23rd Annual Meeting (Jacksonville, FL), February 27 – March 2, 2014
* Louis I. Katzner Award for Graduate Teaching Excellence, 2004-5 (awarded by BGSU Philosophy Department)
* Jonathan Heskett Memorial Award in Environmental Philosophy, 2001 (BGSU)

**Service to Profession**

* Reviewer for *Ethics, Policy & Environment*, May 2016
* Judge at the Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl (Reston, VA), February 18-21, 2016
* Chair of speaker session at 25th Annual Meeting of the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics (Reston, VA), February 18-21, 2016
* Paper commenter at Animal Ethics in the Age of Humans workshop, Wageningen University, Netherlands, November 26-27, 2015 (invited participant)
* Judge at the Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl (Costa Mesa, CA), February 19-22, 2015
* Chair of speaker session at 24th Annual Meeting of the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics (Costa Mesa, CA), February 19-22, 2015
* Commenter and discussion facilitator for Social Justice in the Information Society, a speaker series funded by the Marywood-University of Scranton cooperative grant; speaker: Dr. Johannes Britz, provost and vice chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, “The Ethics of Information Access,” November 4, 2014
* Reviewer for *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, September 2014
* Chair of speaker session at the 23rd Annual Meeting of the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics (Jacksonville, FL), February 27 – March 2, 2014
* Reviewer for *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science Part C*, 2012
* Reviewer for *Ethics and the Environment*, 2012
* Commenter on Matt Drabek, “Answering the Distributive Question about Conscious Pain Experience,” Ohio Philosophical Association, Annual Meeting, Denison University, April 12, 2008

**Service to University**

* Member of Sub-Committee on Linked Courses for New Core Curriculum, 2018 (Marywood)
* Member of Screening Committee for Assistant Provost Position, 2018 (Marywood)
* Chair of Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, 2017-present (Marywood)
* Member of Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, 2015-present (Marywood)
* Member of Student Life Committee, 2015-2017 (Marywood)
* Advisor for Delta Epsilon Sigma (National Scholastic Honor Society for Catholic Colleges and Universities), Marywood Chapter, 2014-2018
* Member of Health and Safety Committee, 2013-2016 (Marywood)
* Dissertation Reader for Christina Bracey’s doctoral dissertation, “How Practicing Teachers Identify and Address Ethical Dilemmas,” Thursday, May 14, 2015 (Marywood, doctoral program in Human Development)
* Judge for Women’s Studies Writing and Creative Work Award (Spring 2014, Spring 2015) (Marywood)

**Service to Department**

* Co-Creator and Director of Bioethics Certificate Program (2017-present) (Marywood)
* Member of Search Committee for New Tenure-Track Faculty Member in Religious Studies (Summer 2017) (Marywood)
* Honor’s Thesis Director for undergraduate philosophy major Joe Duda (2016) (Marywood)
* Faculty Advisor for philosophy majors (Marywood)
* Chair of the Mary Pace Medal for Excellence in Philosophy Committee (2013-present) (Marywood)
* Teaching independent studies for students interested in specialized study in Bioethics (Fall 2015, Spring 2017) (Marywood)
* Organizer of Marywood Philosophy Department bulletin board (2013-present)
* Organizer of biannual Philosophy Department faculty speaker series for undergraduate students (2013-present) (Marywood)