Kenneth T. Howarth

Professor of Philosophy | Coordinator, Philosophy & Religious Studies

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Academic Appointments and Leadership - Current

Professor of Philosophy; Coordinator, Philosophy & Religious Studies, Mercer County Community College, West Windsor, New Jersey.

Faculty Director, Civics Initiative; College Liaison, Trenton Civic Trust. Co-Chair Student Success & Academic Excellence, College Strategic Planning Committee

Teaching areas: Introduction to Philosophy, Ethics, Moral Choices/Applied Ethics, Logic, Eastern Philosophy, Business Ethics, Political Philosophy, Critical Thinking.

Education

Ph.D. Philosophy (coursework completed; dissertation not completed), Claremont Graduate University, Claremont, California. Dissertation project: "Towards Grand Ends: Grasped and Practiced"; advisor: Charles Young.
M.A., Philosophy, Claremont Graduate University, 2003.
M.A.E.C., Eastern (Asian) Classics, St. John's College, Santa Fe, 1997.
M.A.L.A., Classical Western Liberal Arts, St. John's College, Annapolis, 1996.
A.B., Political Science, Davidson College, 1984.
Diploma, The Lawrenceville School, 1980.

Conference Papers and Scholarly Presentations

2027 Conference Acceptances / Listed Engagements

"When Everything Gets Worse Than Bad: Judgment Sabotage and Recursive Social Ruin", American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting. Society for Philosophy in the Contemporary World, Denver, Colorado, USA

"Beyond Exit and Voice: Preserving Professional Judgment in Nonideal Institutions", American Philosophical Association Central Division Meeting. North American Society for Social Philosophy, Denver, Colorado, USA

"Ethics Capture and the Power to Set the Terms of Jedgment",

"Biophilia Without Compulsory Love: Civic Judgment and Artificial Lifelikeness", Biophilia: The Ethics, Politics, and Aesthetics of Love for the Living World, Mississippi Philosophical Association, Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS, USA

"When Critical Thinking Is Not Enough: Judgment Literacy in an Age of AI." AILACT Spring 2027 Speakers Forum, Association for Informal Logic and Critical Thinking (AILACT), USA. Accepted speaker; presentation April 9, 2027

2026 Conference Record

"From AI Literacy to Judgment Formation: Adequacy Floors for AI-Enabled Higher Education", 2026 World University Rankings for Innovation (WURI), 2026 WURI International Research Conference (WIRC), Innovating Education for Tomorrow - AI-Enabled, Inclusive, and Sustainable Futures, University of Makati, Manila, Philippines

"Judgment Capacity as State Capacity: Professional Formation for AI Governance Without Capture", International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS) Conference, Governing Uncertainty: Public administration between natural-urban risk governance and the agentic AI transition, Konkuk Institute of Health and Aging Society (KIHAS), Seoul. South Korea

"When Functions Become Verdicts: Practical Adequacy and the Modern Self." Queens College Philosophy Conference, "Beyond Function: The Self in the Modern World," Queens College, City University of New York, USA

"Modeling Uncertainty in Robotic World Models." 10th Annual Conference on Robot Learning (CoRL) Workshop, Austin, Texas, USA

"Phintys on Female VirtueFunction, and the Philosophical Life", Gorgōnes kai Gynaikes: The Many Faces of Female Virtue in Greek and Roman Culture, Fonte Aretusa Interdisciplinary Symposia on the Heritage of Sicily and Southern Italy, Syracuse, Sicily, Italy

"Artificial Intelligence as Modernity's Judgment Crisis: Agentic Systems, Content, and the Re-Formation of Human Understanding", Re- examining AI / Rethinking Modernity: Critical philosophical, anthropological and interdisciplinary perspectives on technology, Ionian University, Corfu, Greece

"Judgment Preservation Beyond Explainability: Institutional Answerability in AI-Mediated Action", Invited, The Cairo International Workshop: Ethics and Artificial Intelligence, British University of Egypt, Cairo, Egypt

"From Efficient Administration to Competent Oversight: A Governance Adequacy Framework for Public-Sector LLMs", International Conference on Implementation of Large Language Models (LLMs) in the Public Sector: Issues of Ethical Governance and Sustainability. Sorbonne University, Abu Dhabi, UAE

"From Artificial Intelligence Literacy to Judgment Literacy: Adequacy Floors for Artificial Intelligence-Mediated Information Use", Annual Meeting Conference for the Association of Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T), Bangkok, Thailand

"Epistemic Delegation Risk in Conversational Search: Reliance Failure Beyond Retrieval Error", Annual Meeting Conference for the Association of Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T), Bangkok, Thailand

"From Tool to Milieu: Artificial Intelligence and the Re-Bearing of Human- Technics Relations" Philosophy of Technology and AI: Traditions, Transitions, and Tensions Conference, University of Bonn, Germany

"Business Ethics After Compliance: Judgment Infrastructure, Answerability, and the Responsible Use of Technology", 50th Anniversary Conference of the Hoffman Center for Business Ethics, Bentley University, Massachusetts, USA

"Beyond Knowledge: Epistemic Adequacy in AI-Mediated Institutional Inquiry", Asian Epistemology Network Meeting 2026, School of Philosophy, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China

"Administrative AI Adequacy Floors to the Judgment-Capable Public Servant: Forming Judgment Maturity in Schools and Institutes of Administration", International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration (IASIA) Annual Conference: Rethinking Governance for a Changing World at the National Center for Public Administration (EKDDA), Athens, Greece

"Adequacy Floors as Defeasible Proof Obligations for Agentic AI Delegation", 17th Latin American Workshop on New Methods of Reasoning (LANMR), Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México Mexico City, Mexico

"Bioethics Beyond Balancing: Adequacy Floors, Non-Compensable Constraints, and Answerable Judgment", Big Bioethics Workshop, South Dakota State University

"Bettering Bearings and Moral-Based Public Administration: Judgment as Governance Infrastructure", 11th Annual International Conference on Public Administration and Development Alternatives, Durban, South Africa

"Higher Education Governance beyond Efficiency: Student Formation, Public Administration, and Artificial Intelligence", 11th Annual International Conference on Public Administration and Development Alternatives, Durban, South Africa

"Knowledge Integrity Under Artificial Intelligence: Judgment, Research Ethics, and University Governance", 11th Annual International Conference on Public Administration and Development Alternatives, Durban, South Africa

"Renarration without Reality Loss: An Adequacy Floor for Historical Counternarratives in the Age of Generative AI", Historical Narratives and Counternarratives Conference, Applied Philosophy and Social Research Center, Belgrade, Serbia

"Responsible Delegation and Epistemic Standing: Does AI Reliance Risk Higher-Order Defeaters?, 2026 British Society for the Theory of Knowledge Biennial Conference (BSTK), Exeter College, University of Oxford, United Kingdom

"Preserving and Forming Human Judgment in Administrative AI: Adequacy Floors for Lawful and Accountable Public Governance", International institute of Administrative Science, European Group for Public Administration (EGPA) 2026 Conference at the Sapienza University of Rome, Italy

"Judgment in a World of Becoming", 2026 International Whitehead Conference, Beijing Normal–Hong Kong Baptist University (BNBU), Zhuhai, China

"Institutional Judgment Under Mixed Normativities", The European Conference on Arts & Humanities (ECAH2026), University College, London, United Kingdom

"Agentic AI Without Machine Agency: Fitting Individuation, Judgment Preservation, and Responsibility Flow", Australasian Association of Philosophy, University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand

"When AI Ethics Is Captured: Preserving Judgment Against Explanation, Theatre and Checklist Governance", 5th International Conference on Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (5ICEAI), University of Zagreb, Croatia

"Democratic Judgment Infrastructure in the Digital Age: Affective Polarization, Trust, and Epistemic Agency", Epistemic Dimensions of Democratic Deliberation Conference, Rijecka University, Croatia

"Judgment Literacy as Infrastructure for AI-Driven Management: Adequacy Floors for Responsible Organizational Decision-Making", 2026 International Conference on Contemporary Management Department of Business Administration, Da-Yeh University, Taiwan

"From Noosphere to Judgment Ecology: Governing Artificial Intelligence- Augmented Collective Thought", International Conference on Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence: Noosphere and Humanity. Institute of Science, Technology and Society, Nanjing University, Nanjing, China

"Delegation Without Abdication: Agentic AI, Human Judgment Formation, and the Ethics of What Should Remain Human", Featured at Ethics and Agentic AI Symposium, Centering AI in Society and Ethics (CASE) Initiative at North Carolina State University, USA

"Judgment Without Understanding? Artificial Intelligence-Mediated Agency and Epistemic Responsibility", 6th International Conference on Philosophy of Mind: Artificial Intelligence, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, University of Porto, Portugal

"Engineering Judgment Under Uncertainty: From Expertise to Adequacy", Ethics, Epistemology, and Engineering Workshop, Greater Philadelphia Philosophy Consortium, University of Delaware, USA

"She-Lunking Plato's Cave" in the "Perennial Conversations and Questions within the Western Tradition", 16th Annual Association for Core Texts and Courses International Conference, Theme: "Engaging Worlds: Core Texts and Cultural Contexts" New Brunswick, New Jersey, USA.

2026 Accepted Papers Not Presented

"The Moral University as a Judgment Ecology: Cultivating Judgment Across the Curriculum", 24th Annual Conference on Ethics Across the Curriculum, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia, USA

"Before We Balance: Medical Technologies, Adequacy Floors, and Answerable Clinical Judgment", 15th Annual Midwestern Medical Humanities Conference, Medical Humanities Workgroup, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan, USA

"From Ethical AI Principles to Judgment Infrastructure: A Bettering Bearings Approach for Latin America and the Caribbean", 2nd Latin American Ethics on Artificial Intelligence (LAAI-Ethics), Computing Institute – Universidade Federal Fluminense UFF), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

"Moral Psychology as Judgment Ecology: A Bettering Bearings Account of AI-Mediated Moral Formation", 2026 International Society for Moral Psychology Conference, Cornell University, Ithaca, USA

"Judgment-Preserving Governance for Large Language Model Deployment in Engineering and Organizational Systems", 2nd International Conference on Intelligent Systems and Computational Strategies in Engineering and Technology (ICICET 2026), University Canada West, Vancouver, Canada

"Adequacy and Justified Choice under Incomplete Betterness", Fourth Annual Workshop on Value Theory, Lund University, Lund, Sweden

"Judgment Literacy as Infrastructure for Sustainable Artificial Intelligence Governance", The 13th Annual NJBDA Symposium: Building Accessible & Sustainable AI Ecosystems: People, Data, Ethics, & Infrastructure, Rowan University, New Jersey, USA

"From Signal to Standing: Evidential Adequacy in the Interpretation of Animal Minds", Philosophies Meet Animals Workshop, Center for Philosophy of Science, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong, China

Journal Articles and Accepted Publications

"From Detection to Operativity: Defeater Propagation in Hybrid AI–Human Peer Review", Persistence Journal: Complexity Science, Information Theory, Nonlinear Dynamics, Computing & AI, Institute for Complexity Science and Advanced Computing. Forthcoming

“Temporal Membranes: Non-Markovian Dependence and Selective Temporal Inheritance”, Philosophies, Debating Temporal Ontology: The Existence of Yesterday and Tomorrow , MDPI, Forthcoming

“From Sovereignty to Judgment Ecology: Coloniality, Neoliberalism, and Democratic Standing”, Chiasma: An International Journal of Theory and Philosophy, Volume 11: The Question of Sovereignty, Forthcoming

"Judgment Preservation in Augmented Intelligence Systems: A Governance Model for Delegated Artificial Intelligence Action", Journal of the International Society for the Systems Sciences, Vol. 70 No. 1, 2026

“Irreplaceable Persons and the Phenomenology of Adequate Regard”, Special issue: Phenomenologies of Unique Value, Duquesne Studies in Phenomenology, Forthcoming

Conference Session Chairing

Appointed Colloquium Session Chair, “The Ethics of Interpreting Others: Interpretation as Joint Activity,” American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meeting, Denver, Colorado, 2027 (appointment accepted; session forthcoming; organized by Karl Schafer).

Session Chair, paper session on Mingqiu Xue, “Virtue as a Friend, Deficiency as a Moral Agent” (comments by Ciara O’Rourke), Philadelphia Normative Philosophy Conference, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 2–3, 2026.

Scholarly Refereeing and Reviewing

Reviewer, Beacon Conference for Undergraduate Scholarship 2023 - current

Appointed Abstract Reviewer (submissions assigned; reviews pending), 36th Annual APPE International Conference (conference: March 4–7, 2027; reviewing appointment: 2026).

Previous Faculty Appointments and Teaching

(with courses taught) William Patterson University, Liberal Arts Colloquium: On Justice, Identities Middlesex College, Ethics, Introduction to Philosophy The College of New Jersey, Symbolic Logic, Contemporary Moral Issues, Introduction to Philosophy Rider University, Plato & Aristotle, Ethics, Social Philosophy, Business Ethics, Rutgers University at Camden, American Philosophy, Contemporary Moral Issues, Special Topics in Philosophy – Asian Philosophy, Modern Social & Political Philosophy, Graduate Seminar: Comparative Virtue Ethics – Aristotle & Confucius West Chester University, Introduction to Philosophy, Critical Thinking & Problem Solving Bucks County Community College, Ethics, Basic Problems of Philosophy, Montclair State University, Introduction to Philosophy & Introduction to Religion Rowan University, Symbolic Logic, Introduction to Philosophy, Logic of Everyday Reasoning, Philosophy & Society, Business Ethics Burlington County College, Logic & Introduction to Philosophy Felician College, Applied Ethical Reasoning & Business Ethics California State University, San Bernardino, Introduction to Philosophy of Religion, Introduction to Philosophy, , Introduction to Ethical Issues , Introduction to Asian Philosophy & Humanities – American Ideas in American Culture Capstone On Expertise & Mastery Cerritos College, Introduction to Philosophy, Logic, Philosophy of Cultural Diversity, Critical Thinking & Argumentative Writing University of La Verne, Values & Critical Thinking St. John’s College - Santa Fe, All College Seminar, Community Seminars

Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

Grants: Princeton University CCFP Fellowship, 2026 Teagle Foundation Cornerstone: Learning for Living Grant, Pathways Courses Co-Leader, 2025 Smithsonian Museums on Main Street Grant: Voices and Votes: Democracy in America, Exhibit Site Program Director. 2022 Macquire Fellowship, Claremont Graduate University Tuition Fellowship, Claremont Graduate University Eastern Studies Fellowship, St. John’s College – Santa Fe, NM Graduate Studies Grant, St. John’s College - Annapolis, MD Army R.O.T.C. Scholarship, Davidson College

Academic Preparation and Teaching Development

Teaching Training: Leadership Academy, MCCC Professional Teaching & Training Scholar, Claremont Graduate University Teaching Assistant, Philosophy of Science, Pitzer College Preparing Future Faculty Fellow, Claremont Graduate University Teaching Practica Program Certificate, CGU Philosophy Department Certified Touchstones Seminar Leader, St. John’s College - Annapolis

Professional Memberships

Professional Organizations: American Philosophical Association American Association of Philosophy Teachers American Philosophy of Science Association Association for Core Texts and Courses Association for Informal Logic & Critical Thinking Association for the Study of Higher Education Australasian Association of Philosophy Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy Society for Ethics Across the Curriculum Philosophy Learning and Teaching Organization (PLATO)

Research Languages

Classical Chinese; German; Attic Greek.

Academic Leadership and Professional Service

Other Academic Roles: Coordinator, Philosophy and Religious Studies, College Liaison, Trenton Civic Trust; Coach, Mercer APPE IEB Ethics Bowl Team, 2025 Two-Year College National Championship - Quarter-Finalist; Philosophy S.P.A. Club Advisor Past: Chair, Social Science Department; Chair, Academic Integrity Committee; Co-Chair, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee; Coordinator of Political Science; Co-Chair, Liberal Arts Program Group; Co-Lead, Humanities Teagle Pathways Team

Program Group, Team Co-Leader, Teagle Humanities Grant Faculty Chair, Civics Initiative, Mentor, Princeton University GradFutures / Community College Teaching Programs; Faculty Search Committee Chair, Faculty Advisor. 5 Star Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society, Teacher, Local High School Honors Sections; Professor. NJ Prisons System, Reviewer, Beacon Conference for Undergraduate Scholarship.

Conference Session Chairing

Appointed Colloquium Session Chair, “The Ethics of Interpreting Others: Interpretation as Joint Activity,” American Philosophical Association, Central Division Meeting, Denver, Colorado, 2027 (appointment accepted; session forthcoming; organized by Karl Schafer).

Scholarly Refereeing and Reviewing

Reviewer, Beacon Conference for Undergraduate Scholarship

Appointed Abstract Reviewer (submissions assigned; reviews pending), 36th Annual APPE International Conference (conference: March 4–7, 2027; reviewing appointment: 2026).

Public Philosophy and Essays

Popular Media Articles: “Every Map Gives Bearings by Bending Something” Substack

“I Am, Because We Are Not Data Points” Substack

“Hume, AI, and the Boundaries of What Can Be Thought” Substack

“The Machine Cannot Think From Your Place: Arendt belongs near the center of our conversation about AI”, Substack

“The Chair Is Not in Your Mind: John Locke, Artificial Intelligence, and the Appearance of Judgment”, Substack

“The Way Forward Is the Mean: After the State of Scholarship Report”, Substack

“Artificial Intelligence and the New Scope Temptation: How Seeing More Is Not So Easily Knowing Better”, Substack

“From Plato’s Cave to Metric Capture: Why Judgment Still and Especially Matters Today”, Substack

“The New Printing Press? Revisiting the Printing Press Analogy in the Age of Generative Artificial Intelligence”, Substack

“Stop Using the First Exposed as Your Test Lab: Why Artificial Intelligence deployment needs an exposure ethics review before the damage becomes the evidence?, Substack

“We Need Plato Now—But Not as a Blueprint”, Substack

Previous Nonacademic Experience

U.S. Army staff officer; business owner; division and department leadership in operations, sales, production, information technology, transportation, and accounting; retail management; community center director; college registrar; board of directors membership and reporting.