Faron Ray

Department of Philosophy • University of California San Diego
fray@ucsd.edu • faronray.com

Areas of specialization: moral, legal, and political philosophy.
Areas of competence: moral responsibility, AI ethics, metaethics.

Education

University of California San Diego 2021-
Ph.D., Philosophy
Dissertation: 'Responding to Wrongdoing: Essays on Anger, Blame, and Punishment'
Co-chairs: Dana Nelkin, David Brink
Committee: Saba Bazargan-Forward, Yuan Yuan, David Wiens, Victor Tadros

Oxford University 2026
Recognized student in Philosophy; Sponsor: David Enoch

Warwick University 2025
Recognized student in Law; Sponsor: Victor Tadros

University of London, Birkbeck 2018–2020
MA., Philosophy

University of the Arts London, Chelsea 2012–2015
BA., Fine Arts

Publications

"Standing and Morally Protected Blame", *Ethics*. forthcoming

"In Their Name: On the Standing of the State to Hold Marginalized Offenders to Account", *Legal Theory* 31(1):74–95. 2025

"Modelling Objectively", (co-authored with Nancy Cartwright) in Erdbeer, R.M., Hagenmeyer, V., Stierstorfer, K. (eds) *Modelling the Energy Transition*. Palgrave Macmillan. 2025

"Objectivity and Intellectual Humility in Scientific Research: They're Harder Than You Think", (co-authored with Nancy Cartwright), *European Review* 31(4):367–381. 2023

Works in Progress

Anger, Aptness, and Autonomy

Punishment and the Fair Shares of Crime Prevention

Presentations

'Punishment and the Fair Shares of Crime Prevention' — Jan 2027
Centre for Ethics, Law and Public Affairs (CELPA), Warwick University, UK.

'Punishment and the Fair Shares of Crime Prevention' — Nov 2026
Workshop in Agency, Value, and Ethics (WAVE), UC San Diego, US.

'Punishment and the Fair Shares of Crime Prevention' — Oct 2026
UCSD East Coast Workshop, Rutgers–Camden, US.

'Standing and Morally Protected Blame' — Apr 2026
8th Chapel Hill Normativity Conference. Montréal, CA.

'Standing and Morally Protected Blame' — Apr 2026
Workshop in Agency, Value, and Ethics (WAVE). UC San Diego, US.

'Standing and Morally Protected Blame' — Jan 2026
Graduate Conference in Legal & Political Theory. Warwick Univ', UK.

'In Their Name: On the Standing of the State to Hold Marginalized Offenders to Account' — Oct 2024
Oxford Jurisprudence Conference. Brasenose College, Oxford, UK.

'In Their Name: On the Standing of the State to Hold Marginalized Offenders to Account' — Oct 2024
Workshop in Agency, Value, and Ethics (WAVE). UC San Diego, US.

'In Their Name: On the Standing of the State to Hold Marginalized Offenders to Account' — May 2024
Graduate Philosophy Colloquium. UC San Diego, US.

'Two Types of Explainability for Machine Learning Models' — Nov 2024
28th Meeting of the Philosophy of Science Association. Pittsburgh, US.

'Explaining Algorithmic Decisions' — Nov 2024
Graduate Philosophy Colloquium. UC San Diego, US.

Teaching

Instructor of Record

Philosophy 13: Introduction to Ethics — June 2026
metaethics, moral theory, applied ethics

Guest Lectures

Philosophy 27: Ethics and Society I — Aug 2026
Designed and taught 1 lecture on Hugh LaFollette's *Licensing Parents*

Philosophy 50: Law and Society — Mar 2025
Designed and taught 1 lecture on Jeremy Waldron's *The Core of the Case Against Judicial Review*

Teaching Assistant/Discussion Instructor

Philosophy 50: Law and Society — Spr 2025
Philosophical Foundations of Law: property, tort, contract, democracy and rule of law, civil liberties, judicial review

Philosophy 28: Ethics and Society II — Win 2025
Civic Engagement: free speech, voting, civil disobedience, conscientious objection

Philosophy 27: Ethics and Society I — Fall 2024
Topics in Ethical Theory: utilitarianism, communitarianism, sources of normativity, moral realism

Philosophy 27: Ethics and Society I — Sum 2024
Distributive Justice and Identity: Marx, Hayek, Rawls, Dworkin, Kymlicka.

Philosophy 28: Ethics and Society II — Spr 2023
Liberalism and Justice: Mill, Nozick, Rawls

Philosophy 28: Ethics and Society II — Win 2023
Ethics and AI: privacy, hate speech, polarization

Philosophy 28: Ethics and Society II — Fall 2022
Topics in Applied Ethics: war, compensation, immigration, vaccines

Humanities 1: Foundations of Western Civ': Isreal and Greece — Fall 2023
Homer, *The Odyssey*; *The Tanakh;* Plato, *Republic, Meno;* Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*; Sophocles, *Antigone*; Aristophanes, *Lysistrata*; Euripides, *Medea.*

Humanities 1: Foundations of Western Civ': Isreal and Greece — Win 2024
Homer, *The Odyssey; The Tanakh;* Plato, *Euthyphro, Apology, Crito;* Sophocles, *Antigone*; Aeschylus*, Prometheus Bound*; Aristophanes, *The Clouds.*

Humanities 2: Rome, Christianity, and the Middle Ages — Spr 2024
Virgil, *The Aeneid; The New Testament;* Ovid, *Metamorphoses;* St Augustine*, Confessions; The Quran; Arabian Nights;* Rumi*, Selected Poems; Beowulf;* Dante, *Divine Comedy*; Chaucer*, Canterbury Tales*

Outreach

Volunteer Instructor for *Corrupt the Youth*, *San Diego* — 2023–

Corrupt the Youth is a program to bring philosophy to under-served high school students. As instructor, I have designed and taught classes on distributive justice, immigration, gun regulation, and drug criminalization.

Teaching Training

10-week Pedagogy Seminar — 2023–2024
Revelle College Humanities Program

Teaching Philosophy with Games Workshop — Sum 2024
Department of Philosophy, UC San Diego

Student-Centered College Teaching — Win 2026
Teaching and Learning Commons, University of California, San Diego

Philosophy Department Teaching Workshops — 2026–
Department of Philosophy, UC San Diego

Service & Professional Activities

Co-organizer

UCSD Graduate Conference — 2026–2027

UCSD Workshop in Agency, Value, and Ethics (WAVE) — 2026–2027

Commentator

Yishai Cohen & Travis Timmerman, 'Immutable Obligations' — Aug 2026
RoME XIX. Boulder, Colorado, US.

Yahui Chen, 'Hypocrisy, Standing, and a Different Kind of Blame' — May 2026
UCSD Graduate Conference. San Diego, US.

Edmund Tweedy Flanigan, 'Why Riot? An Expressive Theory of the Justification of Rioting' — Jan 2026
Invited commentator, PEA Soup

Alec Walen, 'An Account of Blame and Guilt as the Basis for Censure and Punishment' — Mar 2025
Workshop in Agency, Value, and Ethics, UCSD. San Diego, US.

Gunnar Bjornsson, 'Rebalancing: From Distributive to Retributive Desert' — Feb 2024
Workshop in Agency, Value and Ethics, UCSD. San Diego, US.

Mentor

Graduate mentor for incoming first year graduate students, UCSD — 2024

Scholarships/ Fellowships/Awards

Dissertation Research Fellowship — 2025–2026
UCSD Philosophy Department

Best Graduate Student Essay: 'In Their Name' — 2025
UCSD Philosophy Department

Research Assistant Grant: 'Two Types of Desert' — 2024
UCSD Senate

Research Assistant Grant: 'Success and Failures in Science Through the Lens of Intellectual Humility' — 2022–2023
John Templeton Foundation

Travel Grant Award — 2022
National Science Foundation

Graduate Student Fellowship — 2021–2022
UCSD Philosophy Department

Dean's Award (awarded to highest scoring undergraduate) — 2015
University of the Arts London, Chelsea

Research Assistant Experience

'Two Kinds of Desert' — 2024
PI: David Brink
Research assistant on 'Two Types of Desert'

'Success and Failures in Science Through the Lens of Intellectual Humility' — 2022–2023
PIs: Nancy Cartwright and Robin Hendry
Assisted with two co-authored papers: 'Modelling Objectively' and 'Objectively and Intellectual Humility in Scientific Research'; provided research assistance for presentations including Cartwright's 'Is Economics Queen of the Social Sciences', presented at the 27th Schumpeter Lectures, Graz, and the Hempel Lectures, Princeton

Graduate Coursework

Value Theory

Reactive Attitudes and Responsibility Practices (Dana Nelkin and David Brink), UCSD*
Authoritative Normativity (Lewis Williams), Oxford*
Philosophy, Politics, and Law (David Enoch), Oxford*
Prudence and the Personal Good (David Brink), UCSD*
Punishment and Political Authority, (Directed Independent Study, Yuan Yuan), UCSD
Collective Responsibility and the State, (Directed Independent Study, Saba Bazargan-Forward, UCSD
Blame and Punishment, (Directed Independent Study, Dana Nelkin and David Brink), UCSD
Ethics of War (Saba Bazargan-Forward and Yuan Yuan), UCSD*
Complicity (Saba Bazargan-Forward), UCSD
Responsibility and Justice (Richard Arneson, Dana Nelkin, and David Brink), UCSD
Benefitting from Injustice (Richard Arneson and Saba Bazargan-Forward), UCSD

Ethics and AI (David Danks), UCSD
Early Modern Political Thought: Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau (Sean Ingham), UCSD

Metaphysics/ Epistemology/ Mind

Metaphysics of Causation, (Directed Independent Study, Nancy Cartwright), UCSD
Human Motivation (Matt Fulkerson), UCSD
Rationality: Decision Theories for Belief and Action (Jennifer Carr), UCSD
Foundations in Cognitive Science: Theories & Methods in the Study of Cognitive Phenomena (Seana Coulson), UCSD
Philosophy of Mind (Alex Grzankowski), Birkbeck
Masters' Thesis: A Contrastive Counterfactual Account of Cognitive Penetration (Alex Grzankowski), Birkbeck

History of Philosophy

Kant: Critique of Pure Reason (Eric Watkins), UCSD
Aristotle: Nicomachean Ethics (Christopher Shields), UCSD
Early Greek Philosophy, Xenophanes to Democritus (Monte Johnson), UCSD

Philosophy of Science & Related

Philosophy and Climate Change (Karen Kovaka), UCSD
Special Topics in Philosophy of Science: Objectivity (Nancy Cartwright), UCSD
Philosophy and Evolution (Robert Northcott), Birkbeck
Philosophy of Science (Alexander Bird), King's College London
Game Theory (Sean Ingham), UCSD
Quantitative Methods in Social Science (Juan Pablo Pardo-Guerra), UCSD

Other

Introduction to Logic (Florian Steinberger), Birkbeck
Advanced Logic (Florian Steinberger), Birkbeck
Philosophy Proseminar (Craig Callender), UCSD

* - audit only

Saba Bazargan-Forward
Professor of Philosophy
University of California San Diego
sbazargan@ucsd.edu

David O. Brink
Distinguished Professor, Valtz Family Chair in Philosophy
University of California, San Diego
dbrink@ucsd.edu

Dana Nelkin
Professor of Philosophy
University of California, San Diego
dnelkin@ucsd.edu

Victor Tadros
Professor of Criminal Law and Legal Theory
University of Warwick
v.tadros@warwick.ac.uk