

COLBY JAMES CLARK

Visiting Assistant Professor [Department of Philosophy]

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AOS

Environmental Philosophy (Biogeography & Resilience), Environmental Ethics, Philosophy of Geography

AOC

Ethics (Applied & Normative), History of Philosophy, Ancient Greek, Philosophy of Science, Logic

EDUCATION

Degrees:

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| 2023 | University of Kentucky, PhD in Philosophy Dissertation: <i>The Primacy of Openness in Ecological Complexity Theory</i> Chairs: Ted Schatzki and Tony Stallins |
| 2017 | Kent State University, MA in Philosophy Thesis: <i>The Role of Intermediacy: Plato's Republic Book VI</i> Chair: Gina Zavota |
| 2014 | Wittenberg University, BA in Philosophy |

Graduate Certificate:

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| 2026 | Utah State University, Geographic Information Science (GIS) |
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RESEARCH

Publications:

- Clark, Colby J. 2026. Why the liberality criterion is dysfunctional for theories of ecological function. *Philosophy of Science*, 93(1): 203-220.
- Clark, Colby J. 2025. Why conceptions of scale matter to artifice arguments in SRM ethics. *Ethics, Policy & Environment*, 28(3): 301-313.
- Clark, Colby J. 2024. Norms of species translocation 50 years after the ethic of organic diversity. *Ethics, Policy & Environment*, 27(2): 271-279.
- Clark, Colby J. 2024. Geographical boundaries and historical explanations of within-scale resilience. *Ecological Complexity*, 57: 101062.

Nisioti, Eleni, **Colby Clark**, Kaushik Kunal Das, Ekkehard Ernst, Nicholas A. Friedenber, Emily Gates, Maryl Lambros, Anita Lazurko, Nataša Puzović, & Ilvanna Salas. 2023. Resilience – Towards an interdisciplinary definition using information theory. *Frontiers in Complex Systems*, 1:1236406.

Works in Progress:

“Triage in social-ecological systems: Environmental justice and future catastrophes”
[submitted]

“Descriptive geography and causal explanations of ecological complexity”
[submitted]

“Stewardship, relational values, and the problem of scale”
[submitted]

“Topographical constraints, ecological units, and system memory”
[submitted]

“Sense-of-place values in the age of unrecognizable environments”
[submitted]

“Epistemic aims or environmental justice? A dilemma about classification schemas for large-scale remote sensing practices”
[submitted]

“What does geographic information science (GIS) explain?”
[in preparation]

Presentations and Workshops:

2026 “The expansion of sense-of-place values as the environment becomes unrecognizable,”
Association for Practical and Professional Ethics, St. Louis, MO [moved to virtual]

2026 “Salvaging sense-of-place values in an unrecognizable environment,” The Global Learning
Center – Wichita, Wichita, KS

2025 “Topographical constraints and ecological units,” Philosophy Department Colloquium – Wichita
State University, Wichita, KS

2025 “A puzzle for theories of ecological function,” Institute for Practical Ethics at UC – San Diego
(Environmental Philosophy Workshop), San Diego, CA

2025 “Leveraging geography to identify latent social-ecological harms: The Great Salt Lake (UT,
USA),” American Association of Geographers, Detroit, MI

- 2024 “Social-ecological triage: Environmental justice and future catastrophes,” University of Utah Philosophy Colloquium, Salt Lake City, UT
- 2024 "The function of geographical context in explaining ecological complexity," American Association of Geographers, Honolulu, HI
- 2024 "Scale dynamics and the question of artificiality in solar radiation management (SRM) ethics," International Society for Environmental Ethics (Pacific Meeting of the American Philosophical Association), Portland, OR
- 2024 "Reviving the ethic of organic diversity for the species translocation debate," Association for Practical and Professional Ethics, Cincinnati, OH
- 2023 “Great Salt Lake,” University of Utah College of Humanities Lightning Talk, Salt Lake City, UT
- 2023 “The ethical blind spot inherent to tipping point explanations: A defense of the moral standing of topographical features in sustainability practices,” Association for Practical and Professional Ethics, Portland, OR
- 2022 “Justice and environmental engineering: An argument for habitat heterogeneity,” Association for Practical and Professional Ethics, Cincinnati, OH
- 2021 “Bridging the topological with the topographical: Why space matters to process ontology,” Mississippi Academy of Sciences, Biloxi, MS

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

* indicates online (asynchronous) course

- 2026-present Visiting Assistant Professor, Kansas State University
Introduction to Moral Philosophy: F.2026; Sp.2027(x2)
Introduction to Philosophical Problems: F.2026
Introduction to Philosophy of Science: Sp.2027
Ethics (585) [Environmental Ethics]: F.2026
- 2025-2026 Visiting Assistant Professor, Wichita State University
Introductory Logic: F.2025(x2); S.2026(x2)
Bioethics: F.2025*; S.2026*
- 2023-2025 Postdoctoral Fellow (Instructor), University of Utah
Environmental Ethics: F.2023; F.2024; Sp.2025
Ethics: Sp.2024
- 2018-2023 Teaching Assistant (Instructor), University of Kentucky
Introduction to Philosophy: F.2018; F.2019; F.2020*; Sp.2021*; F.2021
Introduction to Ethics: F.2022
Logic: Sp. 2020; Sp.2021*; F.2021; Sp.2022*; Sp. 2022; Su.2022*

Healthcare Ethics: Sp.2020; F.2020*; Su.2021*

Food Ethics: F.2022; Sp.2023

Environmental Ethics: Sp.2023

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| 2019 | Teaching Assistant, University of Kentucky <i>Logic</i> , Tim Sundell: Sp.2019 |
| 2018 | Adjunct Instructor, University of Akron (Wayne College) <i>Introduction to Ethics</i> : Sp.2018 |
| 2017-2018 | Adjunct Instructor, Kent State University (Stark Campus) <i>Introduction to Philosophy</i> : Su.2017; F.2017 <i>Introduction to Ethics</i> : Sp.2018 <i>Critical Thinking</i> : Sp.2018 <i>Introduction to Formal Logic</i> : F.2017, Sp.2018 |
| 2016-2017 | Teaching Assistant, Kent State University <i>Introduction to Philosophy</i> , Polycarp Ikuenobe: F.2016 <i>Healthcare Ethics</i> , Kim Garchar: Sp.2017 |

SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

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| 2026-present | Coach, Kansas State University Ethics Bowl Team |
| 2025-present | High School Ethics Bowl Organizer, Wichita (KS) City Schools |
| 2017-present | Ohio Greek Philosophy Reading Group |
| 2025-2026 | Coach, Wichita State University Ethics Bowl Team |
| 2023-2025 | Coach, University of Utah Ethics Bowl Team |
| 2025 | Peer-Reviewer: <i>Frontiers in Complex Systems</i> |
| 2024 | Book Referee: <i>Lexington Books</i> |
| 2024 | Conference Coordinator for Philosophy of Biology at the Mountains |
| 2021-2023 | Environmental Humanities Initiative, University of Kentucky |
| 2022-2023 | Coach, University of Kentucky Ethics Bowl Team |
| 2022 | PGSA Graduate Workshop Coordinator, University of Kentucky |
| 2021 | Santa Fe Institute Complex Systems Summer School |

LANGUAGES

Ancient Greek (Attic): Limited Working Proficiency

GRADUATE COURSEWORK

Utah State University:

Principles of Remote Sensing of Natural Resources, Aish Chandrasekaran (Su.2026)

Python Programming for GIS, Luke McDonald (S.2025)

Advanced GIS for Natural Resource Applications, Luke McDonald (F.2025)

GIS for Natural Resource Applications, Shannon Belmont (Su.2025)

University of Kentucky:

Seminar in Recent Philosophy: Marcuse, Arnold Farr (Sp.2020)

Topics in History of Modern Philosophy: Western Marxism, Arnold Farr (Sp.2020)

Seminar in Value Theory: Procreation Ethics, Lindsey Chambers (Sp.2020)

Special Topics in Philosophy: Context and History, Natalie Nenadic (F.2019)

Research in Philosophy: Complex Systems Theory, Ted Schatzki (F.2019)

Biogeography and Conservation, Tony Stallins (F.2019) [*Geography/Biology]

Seminar in Ancient Philosophy: Timaeus, Eric Sanday (Sp.2019)

4th Century Greece and the Hellenistic World, Daniel Gargola (Sp.2019) [*History]

Proseminar: Value Theory, Eric Sanday, Stefan Bird-Pollan, Anita Superson (Sp.2019)

Seminar in Metaphysics/Epistemology: Materiality in Contemporary Theory, Ted Schatzki (F.2018)

Seminar in Metaphysics/Epistemology: Philosophy of Science, Julia Bursten (F.2018)

Proseminar: Metaphysics/Epistemology, Eve Rabinoff, Natalie Nenadic, Clare Batty (F.2018)

Proseminar: Teaching Methods, Julia Bursten (F.2018)

Kent State University:

Graduate Seminar: New Materialism, Gina Zavota (Sp.2017)

Epistemology, Deb Smith (Sp.2017)

Aristotle, Michael Byron (F.2016)

Plato, Gina Zavota (F.2016)

History of Philosophy: Kant's Transcendental Unity of Apperception, Frank Ryan (Sp.2016)

Graduate Seminar: Ancient Eastern Philosophy, Jung-Yeup Kim (Sp.2016)

Philosophy of Expression (Kant, Fichte, Schelling, Hegel), Gene Pendleton (F.2015)

Intermediate Logic, Deb Smith (F.2015)