

## COLBY JAMES CLARK

Visiting Assistant Professor [Department of Philosophy]

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### AOS

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

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### AOC

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

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## EDUCATION

### Degrees:

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| 2023 | University of Kentucky, PhD in Philosophy<br>Dissertation: <i>The Primacy of Openness in Ecological Complexity Theory</i><br>Chairs: Ted Schatzki (Philosophy & Geography) and Tony Stallins (Geography) |
| 2017 | Kent State University, MA in Philosophy<br>Thesis: <i>The Role of Intermediacy: Plato's Republic Book VI</i><br>Chair: Gina Zavota (Philosophy)                                                          |
| 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. Topographical constraints, ecological units, and system memory. *History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences*, 48: 49.
- 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. Friedenberg, 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]

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

“Geographic information science (GIS), geospatial data, and biogeographical phenomena”  
[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 artifice 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

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

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

## SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

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|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2026-present | Coach: Kansas State University Ethics Bowl Team                                          |
| 2017-present | Ohio Greek Philosophy Reading Group                                                      |
| 2025-2026    | High School Ethics Bowl Organizer: Wichita (KS) City Schools                             |
| 2026         | Session Organizer: Heartland AI Symposium [@ Kansas State University]                    |
| 2026         | Guest Lecturer, <i>Environmental Justice</i> (GEOG370) [@ Kansas State University]       |
| 2025-2026    | Coach: Wichita State University Ethics Bowl Team                                         |
| 2026         | Session Organizer: Welcomefest Event [@ Wichita State University]                        |
| 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: Philosophy of Biology at the Mountains<br>[@ University of Utah] |
| 2021-2023    | University of Kentucky's Environmental Humanities Initiative                             |
| 2022-2023    | Coach: University of Kentucky Ethics Bowl Team                                           |

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| 2022      | Conference Coordinator: University of Kentucky's PGSA Graduate Workshop |
| 2021      | Santa Fe Institute Complex Systems Summer School                        |
| 2015-2017 | Conference Coordinator: Kent State University's Graduate Conference     |

## 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)  
*4<sup>th</sup> 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)