

COLBY JAMES CLARK

Visiting Assistant Professor [Department of Philosophy]

Kansas State University
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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 (Philosophy & Geography) and Tony Stallins (Geography) |
| 2017 | Kent State University, MA in Philosophy
Thesis: <i>The Role of Intermediacy: Plato's Republic Book VI</i>
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. (forthcoming). Topographical constraints, ecological units, and system memory. *History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences*. (Accepted 7/29/2026)
- 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 explanations”
[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
<i>Introduction to Moral Philosophy</i> : F.2026
<i>Introduction to Philosophical Problems</i> : F.2026
<i>Ethics</i> (585) [<i>Environmental Ethics</i>]: F.2026 |
| 2025-2026 | Visiting Assistant Professor, Wichita State University
<i>Introductory Logic</i> : F.2025(x2); S.2026(x2)
<i>Bioethics</i> : F.2025*; S.2026* |
| 2023-2025 | Postdoctoral Fellow (Instructor), University of Utah
<i>Environmental Ethics</i> : F.2023; F.2024; Sp.2025
<i>Ethics</i> : Sp.2024 |
| 2018-2023 | Teaching Assistant (Instructor), University of Kentucky
<i>Introduction to Philosophy</i> : F.2018; F.2019; F.2020*; Sp.2021*; F.2021
<i>Introduction to Ethics</i> : F.2022
<i>Logic</i> : Sp. 2020; Sp.2021*; F.2021; Sp.2022*; Sp. 2022; Su.2022*
<i>Healthcare Ethics</i> : Sp.2020; F.2020*; Su.2021*
<i>Food Ethics</i> : F.2022; Sp.2023
<i>Environmental Ethics</i> : Sp.2023 |

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

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
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 [@ University of Utah]
2021-2023	University of Kentucky's Environmental Humanities Initiative
2022-2023	Coach: University of Kentucky Ethics Bowl Team

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)
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)