

# BRANDON MORGAN-OLSEN

## *Curriculum Vitae*

Loyola University Chicago  
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### Appointments

- 2012–present    Instructor, Loyola University Chicago (Philosophy Dept.)  
2011–2012      Biological Futures Research Associate, University of Washington (Program on Values)  
2010–2011      Postdoctoral Fellow in Democracy and Diversity, Queen’s University (Philosophy Dept.)

### Education

- 2004–2010      University of Washington  
                    PhD, Philosophy, June 2010  
                    *Dissertation:* “Listening in Public: Duties of Civility in a Pluralistic Democracy”  
                    *Committee:* Michael Blake (supervisor), William Talbott, Alison Wylie, and  
                    Michael Rosenthal  
                    MA, Philosophy, June 2006  
2000             Sophia University (Tokyo, Japan)  
                    Semester Abroad, March – August 2000  
1997–2001      Grinnell College  
                    BA, Philosophy, honors; Phi Beta Kappa

**Areas of Specialization:** Social and Political Philosophy, Ethical Theory

**Areas of Competence:** Philosophy of Science, Applied Ethics, Philosophy of Human Rights

### Publications

Morgan-Olsen, B. (2013) A Duty to Listen: Epistemic Obligations and Public Deliberation. *Social Theory and Practice*, 39(2), 185-212.

The obligation that citizens must only offer “public” reasons into political discourse is traditionally taken by political liberals to fall on the citizen as *speaker* – as an individual who forwards political arguments. I argue here that those who accept this obligation for speakers must accept a corresponding civic obligation on listeners – a duty to attempt to identify public reasons within others’ presented arguments.

Morgan-Olsen, B. (2012). Habermas, Rawls, and the Public “Translation” of Religious Claims. *Science et Esprit*, winter, 229-244.

The act of matching nonpublic claims with equivalent public claims is significant for both Habermas’s work on the role of religion in the public sphere and for Rawls’s “duty of civility”. I investigate here what a detailed account of this “translation” of nonpublic claims might look like, especially for purposes of political inclusion.

Morgan-Olsen, B. (2010). Conceptual Exclusion and Public Reason. *Philosophy of the Social Sciences*, 40(2), 213-243.

I demonstrate here that a type of exclusion I call ‘conceptual exclusion’ creates the potential for public reason constraints to further exclude marginalized groups. I argue that taking conceptual exclusion seriously requires both a revision of traditional accounts of public reason and a re-conceptualization of our civic obligations.

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## Current Projects

“Identifying Difference, Engaging Dissent: What is at Stake in Democratizing Knowledge” (c-authored with Loren King and James Wong - under review)

Several recent voices in epistemology and the philosophy of science have called for a democratic turn in understanding how we seek knowledge. This article brings this burgeoning tradition of democratizing science into dialogue with both the philosophical and social-scientific branches of deliberative democratic theory

“Public ‘Translation’ As Inclusion: Habermas, Rawls, and Generative Citizenship” (under review)

This article builds on and extends the argument presented in Morgan-Olsen (forthcoming 2012), listed above.

“Civility in Uncivil Times: On Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, and Jerry Falwell” (in progress)

In this paper, I work through some of the applicability conditions political civility in non-ideal circumstances.

“Multiculturalism and (Mis)Understanding” (in progress)

This paper identifies a productive tension between norms of multicultural citizenship and the expressed views of a multicultural state, thereby clarifying what a commitment to multicultural toleration entails.

## Invited Presentations

2011 “Habermas, Rawls, and the Public ‘Translation’ of Religious Claims,” Queen’s Philosophy Colloquium (Queen’s University, ON)

2011 “A Listener’s Duty,” 2011 Political Theory Workshop (Centre de Recherche en Éthique de l’Université de Montréal, QC)

## Selected Peer-Reviewed Conference Presentations

2013 “Civility in Uncivil Times: On Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, and Jerry Falwell,” Western Political Science Association 2013 Annual Meeting (Hollywood, CA)

2012 “Identifying Difference, Engaging Dissent,” European Network for the Philosophy of the Social Sciences Conference 2012 (Copenhagen, DK) – *presented by co-author Loren King*

2012 “The Obligation to Interpret: A Response to the Tea Party and Occupy Movements,” IPFW Center for Applied Ethics (Fort Wayne IN) – *presented by co-author Terence Meehan*

2012 “Multiculturalism and (Mis)Understanding,” Philosophy of the Social Sciences Roundtable 2012 (University of Nebraska, Lincoln NE)

2011 “The Burdens of Interpersonal Justification,” The American Philosophical Association 2011 Eastern Division Meeting (Washington, D.C.)

2011 “Distinguishing Dissent from Difference,” Pacific Northwest Political Science Association 2011 Annual Conference (Seattle, WA)

2011 “Habermas, Rawls, and the Public ‘Translation’ of Religious Claims,” Canadian Jacques Maritain Association Religion in Public Life Symposium (Congress of the Social Sciences and Humanities 2011, NB)

2009 “Habermas on the Public ‘Translation’ of Religious Claims,” Seventeenth Annual Critical Theory Roundtable (Stony Brook University, NY)

2009 “Epistemic Injustice and Public Reason,” Eleventh Annual Philosophy of Social Science Roundtable (Emory University, GA)

# BRANDON MORGAN-OLSEN

## Teaching Experience as Primary Instructor (2007-2013)

Introduction to Ethics (Loyola University Chicago)  
Philosophy and Persons (Loyola University Chicago)  
Contemporary Moral Philosophy: Respect, Tolerance, and Civility (Queen's University and Loyola)  
Philosophy of Human Rights, University of Washington  
Introduction to Philosophy (University of Washington, Everett Community College, Pima Community College)

## Teaching Experience as Teaching Assistant (2004-2007; all at the University of Washington)

Introduction to Ethical Theory (*twice*, with Stephen Gardiner, and with Jean Roberts)  
Environmental Ethics (with Andrew Light)  
Introduction to Philosophy (*twice*, with Michael Rosenthal, and with Ann Baker)  
Contemporary Moral Problems (*twice*, with Michael Blake, and with Adam Moore)  
Introduction to Logic (*twice*, with Arthur Fine, and with Cass Weller)

## Service and Administration

2009-2010 Society of Scholars (UW Simpson Center for the Humanities)  
2008-2009 Job Search Committee (UW Department of Philosophy)  
2008 Asst. Organizer: Expanding Interdisciplinarity Conference (University of Washington)  
2008 Asst. Organizer: 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Phil. of Social Science Roundtable (University of Washington)  
2007-2010 Science Studies Network (UW Simpson Center for the Humanities)  
2007-2008 Graduate Student Representative (UW Department of Philosophy)  
2006-2007 Coach, UW Intercollegiate "Ethics Bowl" Team (National and Regional Competitions)

## References

Will Kymlicka, Professor and Canada Research Chair in Political Philosophy, Queen's University  
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Michael Blake, Associate Professor, Departments of Philosophy and Public Affairs, University of Washington  
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William Talbott, Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Washington  
(206) 543-5095 | [wtalbott@uw.edu](mailto:wtalbott@uw.edu)  
Alison Wylie, Professor, Departments of Philosophy and Anthropology, University of Washington  
(206) 543-5873 | [aw26@uw.edu](mailto:aw26@uw.edu)  
Michael Rosenthal, Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Washington  
(206) 685-2655 | [rosentha@uw.edu](mailto:rosentha@uw.edu)  
Arthur Fine, Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Washington  
(206) 543-6496 | [afine@uw.edu](mailto:afine@uw.edu)

# BRANDON MORGAN-OLSEN

## Honors and Awards

- 2010-2011 **Postdoctoral Fellowship in Democracy and Diversity** (Queen's University Philosophy Dept.)  
One twelve-month appointment awarded per year as postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Philosophy. The appointee works under the supervision of Will Kymlicka in connection with the Diversity and Democracy program of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research.
- 2009-2010 **Alvord Fellowship in the Humanities** (UW College of Arts and Sciences)  
One fellowship awarded per year, on the basis of the academic merit of the dissertation project and crossing disciplinary lines. Each competitor is the sole nominee from their department.
- 2007-2009 **Science Studies Network Research Assistantship** (UW Simpson Center for the Humanities)
- Autumn 2008 **Science Studies Network Graduate Fellowship** (UW Simpson Center for the Humanities)
- 2008 **Teaching Award** (UW Department of Philosophy)
- 2004 **Top Scholar Award** (UW Graduate School)
- Summer 2001 **Boone Scholars Internship for East Asian Studies** (The Field Museum of Natural History)
- 1997-2001 **Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship** (Grinnell College)