

Kristian Cantens, PhD

Department of Philosophy
Catawba College

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Areas of Specialty: Environmental and Animal Ethics.

Areas of Competence: Feminist Philosophy, Philosophy as/and Literature, Philosophy of Technology.

Employment

Assistant Professor of Philosophy
Catawba College

Start date: August 2025

Lecturer in Philosophy
Texas State

August 2024 – May 2025
San Marcos, TX

Education

PhD in Philosophy
Texas A&M

May 2024

MA in English
Texas A&M

December 2021

MA in Environmental Philosophy
University of Montana

May 2017

BA in Philosophy
Moravian University

May 2013

Publications in Peer-reviewed Journals

“Racism, Speciesism, and the Argument from Analogy: A Critique of the Discourse of Animal Liberation”
Journal of Applied Philosophy

2025

“Currents in Conservation: Navigating Tragic Conflict with Compassion and Justice”
Journal for Agricultural and Environmental Ethics

2024

“Overcoming the Fantasy of Human Supremacy: Towards a Murdochian Theory of Change in Non-Ideal Animal Ethics”
Journal of Animal Ethics

2024

Translations

“The Blue Mosque: An Experience of Otherness” by Luis Villoro
Inter-American Journal of Philosophy

Spring 2023
Translated from Spanish

Edited Collections

The Joke's on Us: Understanding Animals' Senses of Humor
Editors: Deborah Slicer and **Kristian Cantens**

In preparation (expected 2026)
Bloomsbury Press

Publications on Pedagogy

“Kaleidoscopic Thoreau: Lessons from the Classroom”
ISEE Newsletter

Fall 2023

Conference Participation and Invited Talks

“The Sharing of a Vision of Animal Life: Exploring an Alternative to Argument”
International Society for Environmental Ethics (ISEE)

June 2025
Missoula, MT

“On Fantasy and Fighting Bulls” (Invited)
Philosophy Department Colloquium

March 2025
St. Louis University-Madrid (Spain)

“Ritual Animal Sacrifice and the Dogma of Human Supremacy” (Invited)
Animal Ethics Workshop

March 2025
Complutense University of Madrid (Spain)

“A Defense of Purity Veganism” (Invited)
Centre for Animal Ethics 10th Anniversary Conference

March 2025
Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona, Spain)

“Iris Murdoch on Becoming Better”
Iris Murdoch Conference

June 2023
Remote

“A Case for Thoreau as Anthropocene Thinker”
Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy (SAAP)

March 2023
Denver, CO

“Freud’s Influence on Murdoch’s Notion of Fantasy”
Iris Murdoch Conference

June 2022
Chichester, UK

“Machismo and the Domination of Nature in the Spanish Bullfight” (Invited)
L. T. Jordan Institute Lecture Series

September 2022
Texas A&M (College Station, TX)

“Neighboring Animals in a Post-Wild World”
The Thoreau Society Panel at the American Literature Association

July 2021
Boston, MA

“The Virtue of Wildness: Fostering Coexistence with Other Species”
International Society for Environmental Ethics (ISEE)

October 2020
Remote

“Mysticism in Luis Villoro’s ‘La Mezquita Azul’”
Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy

March 2020
San Miguel de Allende, Mexico

Commentator
Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress

August 2019
University of Colorado (Boulder, CO)

“The Joys of Life and the Perils of Technology”
The Society for Philosophy and Technology

May 2019
Texas A&M (College Station, TX)

Commentator
American Philosophical Association

February 2019
Denver, CO

“Can Animals be Activists?”
Conference for Critical Animal Studies

October 2018
University of Colorado (Boulder, CO)

Courses Taught as Lead Instructor

Environmental Ethics <i>Texas State</i>	Spring 2025
Philosophy and Critical Thinking <i>Texas State</i>	Fall 2024 and Spring 2025
Ethics and Society <i>Texas State</i>	Fall 2024 and Spring 2025
Climate Change Ethics <i>Wild Rockies Field Institute</i>	Summer 2023 and 2024
Contemporary Moral Issues <i>Texas A&M</i>	Summer 2020 and Spring 2023
Environmental Ethics <i>Texas A&M</i>	Fall 2022
Engineering Ethics <i>Texas A&M</i>	Spring and Fall 2020, and Spring 2021
Introduction to Ethics <i>University of Montana</i>	Spring 2021
Introduction to Philosophy <i>Texas A&M</i>	Summer 2021

Fellowships

Junior Fellow at the Centre for Animal Ethics \$1500	2025 Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona, Spain)
L.T. Jordan Institute Research Fellow \$2000	Spring 2022 Texas A&M (College Station, TX)

Paid Research Positions

Topic: Lab Compliance with the Animal Welfare Act Advisor: Dr. Alka Chandra	August 2023 – June 2024
Topic: Luis Villoro, Mysticism, and Mexican Philosophy Advisor: Dr. Gregory Pappas	Summer 2021
Topic: Compassionate Conservation and Wildlife Ethics Advisor: Dr. Clare Palmer	August 2020 – July 2021

Institutional Service

Undergraduate Research Leader
The IDEA Center Spring 2025
Texas State

Reviewer August 2024 – Present
Sloth: A Journal for Emerging Voices in Human-Animal Studies

Undergraduate Research Leader Fall 2022
Aggie Research Program Texas A&M

Lead Conference Organizer March 2021
Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy (SAAP) San Miguel de Allende, Mexico

Community Involvement

Organizer of a Transdisciplinary Working Group January 2025 – Present
Animal Liberation: Theory and Practice Remote

Food Salvage and Distribution August 2023 – Present
ATX Free Fridge Austin, TX

Organizer January 2023 – Present
Austin Animal Advocates Austin, TX

Campus Outreach Coordinator December 2022 – August 2023
Allied Scholars for Animal Protection (ASAP) UT Austin & Texas A&M