Kristian Cantens, PhD

Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Catawba College
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Areas of Specialization
Environmental Ethics; Animal Ethics

Areas of Competence
Feminist Philosophy; Philosophy as Literature

Academic Appointments

Catawba College — Assistant Professor of Philosophy
August 2025–Present

Texas State University — Lecturer in Philosophy
August 2024–May 2025

Education

Texas A&M University
PhD in Philosophy, May 2024

Texas A&M University
MA in English, December 2021

University of Montana
MA in Environmental Philosophy, May 2017

Moravian University
BA in Philosophy, May 2013

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Articles
"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.

Edited Volume

Jokesters with Feathers, Tails, and Scales: Animals' Senses of Humor, Humor and the Moral Life, edited by Deborah Slicer and Kristian Cantens.
Bloomsbury Press, forthcoming 2027.

Book Chapters

"Does a Joke Explained Lose its Humor?" In *Jokesters with Feathers, Tails, and Scales: Animals' Senses of Humor, Humor and the Moral Life*, edited by Deborah Slicer and Kristian Cantens.
Bloomsbury Press, forthcoming 2027.

"Critical Animal Studies." In *Handbook of Environmental Philosophy*, edited by T. R. Kover and Nathan Kowalsky. Springer, under contract.

"Animals and Race." In *The Oxford Handbook of Animal Politics*, edited by Sara van Goozen and Matt Perry. Oxford University Press, under contract.

Translations

Luis Villoro, "The Blue Mosque: An Experience of Otherness"
Translated from Spanish.
Inter-American Journal of Philosophy, 2023.

Pedagogical Publications

"Kaleidoscopic Thoreau: Lessons from the Classroom"
ISEE Newsletter, 2023.

Works in Progress

"The Sharing of a Vision of Animal Life: Exploring an Alternative to Argument." Under review.

"Veganism as the Ritualized Disruption of Human Supremacy." Article manuscript in preparation.

Imagining Animals Differently. Book manuscript in preparation.

Invited Talks

"The Urgency of Action"
Fundraising Gala for Allied Scholars for Animal Protection (ASAP), Chapel Hill, NC, April 2026.

"On Fantasy and Fighting Bulls"
Philosophy Department Colloquium, St. Louis University–Madrid, March 2025.

"Human Supremacy and Ritual Animal Sacrifice"
Animal Ethics Workshop, Complutense University of Madrid, March 2025.

"Eating Animals and the Ethics of Purity"
Centre for Animal Ethics 10th Anniversary Conference, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, March 2025.

Conference Presentations

"Veganism as Ritualized Disruption of Human Supremacy"
International Society for Environmental Ethics (ISEE), Colorado State University, July 2026.

"The Sharing of a Vision of Animal Life: Exploring an Alternative to Argument"
Animal & Vegan Advocacy (AVA) International Summit, Toronto, Canada, May 2026.

"The Sharing of a Vision of Animal Life: Exploring an Alternative to Argument"
International Society for Environmental Ethics (ISEE), University of Montana, June 2025.

"Iris Murdoch on Becoming Better"
Iris Murdoch Conference, Remote, June 2023.

"A Case for Thoreau as Anthropocene Thinker"
Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy (SAAP), Denver, CO, March 2023.

"Freud's Influence on Murdoch's Notion of Fantasy"
Iris Murdoch Conference, University of Chichester (UK), June 2022.

"Machismo and the Domination of Nature in the Spanish Bullfight"
L. T. Jordan Institute Lecture Series, Texas A&M University, September 2022.

"Neighboring Animals in a Post-Wild World"
The Thoreau Society Panel at the American Literature Association, Boston, MA, July 2021.

"The Virtue of Wildness: Fostering Coexistence with Other Species"
International Society for Environmental Ethics (ISEE), Remote, October 2020.

"Mysticism in Luis Villoro's 'La Mezquita Azul"
Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy, San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, March 2020.

"The Joys of Life and the Perils of Technology"
The Society for Philosophy and Technology, Texas A&M University, May 2019.

"Can Animals be Activists?"
Conference for Critical Animal Studies, University of Colorado, October 2018

Classes Taught

Catawba College
Thoreau's Walden: Finding One's Self in Nature; Ecological Visions; Critical Thinking; Ethics; Intro to Logic.

Texas State University
Environmental Ethics; Philosophy and Critical Thinking, Ethics and Society.

Texas A&M University
Contemporary Moral Issues; Environmental Ethics; Engineering Ethics; Introduction to Philosophy.

Wild Rockies Field Institute
Climate Change Ethics.

University of Montana
Introduction to Ethics.

Fellowships and Awards

Junior Fellow, Centre for Animal Ethics, Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Spain), 2025.

L. T. Jordan Institute Research Fellow, Texas A&M University, Spring 2022.

Research Positions

Lab Compliance with the Animal Welfare Act
Advisor: Dr. Alka Chandra
August 2023–June 2024

Luis Villoro, Mysticism, and Mexican Philosophy
Advisor: Dr. Gregory Pappas
Summer 2021

Compassionate Conservation and Wildlife Ethics
Advisor: Dr. Clare Palmer
August 2020–July 2021

Service

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

Ad Hoc Reviewer, *Inter-American Journal of Philosophy*.

Ad Hoc Reviewer, *Biological Conservation*.

Undergraduate Research Leader, Aggie Research Program, Texas A&M University, Fall 2022.

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

Community Engagement

Active Participant, North Carolina Animal Activists United (NCAUU), August 2025—Present.

Food Salvage and Distribution, ATX Free Fridge, Austin, TX, August 2023–May 2025.

Organizer, Austin Animal Advocates, Austin, TX, January 2023–May 2025.

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