# PETER B. M. VRANAS

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**Employment**      2010-present: Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Wisconsin-Madison.
2006-2010: Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Wisconsin-Madison.
2001-2006: Assistant Professor, Dep. of Philosophy and Religious Studies, Iowa State University.

**Research areas**  Philosophical Logic; Ethics; Philosophy of Science; Formal Epistemology; Metaphysics.

**Education**       1995-2001: THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN (ANN ARBOR, MI, USA)
- Doctor of Philosophy in Philosophy, August 2001.
- Master of Science in Psychology, April 2000.

1987-1992: MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (CAMBRIDGE, MA, USA)
- Doctor of Science in Operations Research, June 1992.
- Master of Science in Ocean Systems Management, June 1991.

1982-1987: UNIVERSITIES OF RENNES I, II AND GRENOBLE II (FRANCE)
- Maîtrise (Bachelor of Science) in Econometrics, September 1987.

1982-1987: NATIONAL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS (GREECE)
- Πτυχίον (Bachelor of Science) in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering, July 1987.

**Languages**       GREEK:    Native language.
FRENCH:   Diplôme supérieur d'études françaises, Université de Sorbonne-Paris IV, April 1983.
ENGLISH: Diploma of English Studies, University of Cambridge, England, June 1986.
GERMAN: Großes Deutsches Sprachdiplom, Goethe Institut & Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität zu München, May 1993.

**Awards**
- 2018 Mid-career Kellett Award, University of Wisconsin-Madison.
- 2010 Honored Instructors Award, Division of University Housing, University of Wisconsin-Madison.
- 2006 Award for Early Achievement in Research, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Iowa State University.
- 2002 Young Epistemologist prize for a best paper submitted to the Rutgers Epistemology Conference by a person having obtained the Ph.D. within the last ten years.
- 2000-2001 John Dewey prize for excellence in undergraduate teaching, Department of Philosophy, University of Michigan.
- 1998-1999 Charles L. Stevenson prize for the best candidacy dossier, Department of Philosophy, University of Michigan.
- 1998 Philosophy of Science Association prize for the best essay submitted by a graduate student.
- 1998 Wirt & Mary Cornwell prize for "outstanding intellectual curiosity and exceptional promise of original study", Department of Philosophy, University of Michigan.
- Honorable mention in the 1992 Dissertation Prize Competition of the Transportation Science Section of the Operations Research Society of America.

**Fellowships**
- National Endowment for the Humanities summer stipend (2016).
- Vilas Associate award, University of Wisconsin-Madison (2011-2013).
- National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship (January-December 2005).
- Miller faculty fellowship, Center for Teaching Excellence, Iowa State University (2002-2003).
- Visiting junior scholar, Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies (July 2001).

- Rackham fellowship, University of Michigan (1999-2000).
- Decision Consortium fellowship, University of Michigan (1998-1999).
- Postdoctoral research fellowship, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (1994-1995).

**Publications**

PHILOSOPHY: JOURNAL ARTICLES

- "Beyond ought-implies-can: Impersonal obligatoriness implies historical contingency." *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy* (forthcoming).
- "'Ought' implies 'can' but does not imply 'must': An asymmetry between becoming infeasible and becoming overridden." *The Philosophical Review 127* (2018), 487-514.
- "I ought, therefore I can obey." *Philosophers' Imprint 18,* no. 1 (2018), 1-36.
- "Informative aboutness." *Australasian Journal of Philosophy 95* (2017), 354-364.
- "New foundations for imperative logic III: A general definition of argument validity." *Synthese 193* (2016), 1703-1753.
- "New foundations for imperative logic: Pure imperative inference." *Mind 120* (2011), 369-446.
- "What time travelers may be able to do." *Philosophical Studies 150* (2010), 115-121.
- "In defense of imperative inference." *Journal of Philosophical Logic 39* (2010), 59-71.
- "Can I kill my younger self? Time travel and the retrosuicide paradox." *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly 90* (2009), 520-534.
- "Against moral character evaluations: The undetectability of virtue and vice." *The Journal of Ethics 13* (2009), 213-233.
- "New foundations for imperative logic I: Logical connectives, consistency, and quantifiers." *Noûs 42* (2008), 529-572.
- "I ought, therefore I can." *Philosophical Studies 136* (2007), 167-216.
- "Do cry over spilt milk: Possibly you can change the past." *The Monist 88* (2005), 370-387. (This paper was in the 5 finalists—among 37 submissions—in the 2004 competition for the *Oxford Studies in Metaphysics* Younger Scholar Prize.)
- "Aristotle on the best good: Is *Nicomachean Ethics* 1094a18-22 fallacious?" *Phronesis 50* (2005), 116-128.
- "The indeterminacy paradox: Character evaluations and human psychology." *Noûs 39* (2005), 1-42.
- "Have your cake and eat it too: The Old Principal Principle reconciled with the New." *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research 69* (2004), 368-382. (This paper was awarded a 2002 Young Epistemologist prize by the Rutgers Epistemology Conference.)
- "Hempel's raven paradox: A lacuna in the standard Bayesian solution." *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science 55* (2004), 545-560.
- "Who's afraid of undermining? Why the Principal Principle might not contradict Humean Supervenience." *Erkenntnis 57* (2002), 151-174.
- "Epsilon-ergodicity and the success of equilibrium statistical mechanics." *Philosophy of Science 65* (1998), 688-708. (This paper was awarded the 1998 Philosophy of Science Association prize for the best essay submitted by a graduate student.)

PHILOSOPHY: BOOK CHAPTERS, ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES, BOOK REVIEWS, & DISCUSSIONS

- "Imperative foundations for the metaphysics of obligations." In Paul McNamara, Andrew J. I. Jones, & Mark A. Brown (Eds.), *Agency, norms, inquiry, and artifacts: Essays in honor of Risto Hilpinen*. Cham, Swirzerland: Springer Nature (2022), 61-79.
- "Imperatives, Logic of". In Hugh LaFollette (Ed.), *International encyclopedia of ethics*. Oxford: Blackwell (2013), Vol. 5, pp. 2575-2585.
- Comments on [Greg Restall & Gillian Russell's] 'Barriers to implication'. In Charles R. Pigden (Ed.), *Hume on* Is *and* Ought. New York: Palgrave Macmillan (2010), 260-267.
- Review of *The really hard problem: Meaning in a material world*, by Owen Flanagan. *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (2008), 2008.09.13.

- Review of *Sentimental rules: On the natural foundations of moral judgment*, by Shaun Nichols. *Mind 115* (2006), 784-790.
- Review of *Lack of character: Personality and moral behavior*, by John Doris. *The Philosophical Review 113* (2004), 284-288.

FORMAL LOGIC
- "Natural deduction for first-order pure imperative logic." *Logique et Analyse 258* (2022), 167-188.
- "New foundations for imperative logic IV: Natural deduction." *Journal of Applied Logics 6*, no. 3 (2019), 431-446.

NUTRITION & DIETETICS
- (With K. D. Dialektakou.) "Breakfast skipping and body mass index among adolescents in Greece: Whether an association exists depends on how breakfast skipping is defined." *Journal of the American Dietetic Association 108* (2008), 1517-1525.

PSYCHOLOGY
- "Single-case probabilities and content-neutral norms: A reply to Gigerenzer." *Cognition 81* (2001), 105-111.
- "Gigerenzer's normative critique of Kahneman and Tversky." *Cognition 76* (2000), 179-193.

OPERATIONS RESEARCH
- "Optimal slot allocation for European air traffic flow management." *Air Traffic Control Quarterly 4* (1997), 249-280.
- (With D. J. Bertsimas and A. R. Odoni.) "Dynamic ground-holding policies for a network of airports." *Transportation Science 28* (1994), 275-291.
- (With D. J. Bertsimas and A. R. Odoni.) "The multi-airport ground-holding problem in air traffic control." *Operations Research 42* (1994), 249-261.

NAVAL ENGINEERING
- (With G. A. Athanassoulis and T. H. Soukissian.) "A new model for long-term stochastic analysis and prediction." *Journal of Ship Research 36* (1992), 1-16.

**Invited talks**
- University of Missouri (April 2021, via Zoom): "Beyond ought-implies-can: Impersonal obligatoriness implies historical contingency."
- University of Wisconsin-Madison (November 2018): "Time travel: Processes and paradoxes."
- University of Copenhagen Facts & Norms Workshop III (August 2017): "I ought, therefore I can obey."
- Hamburg University workshop "Imperatives: Worlds and Beyond" (June 2016): "New foundations for imperative logic."
- New York University workshop "Imperatives and Deontic Modals" (March 2016): "Natural deduction for imperative logic."
- Beijing Normal University (August 2012), University of Warsaw (May 2012), and University of Otago (December 2011, via Skype): "New foundations for imperative logic III: A general definition of argument validity."
- University of Warsaw (May 2012): "In defense of imperative inference."
- Illinois State University (April 2010): "I ought, therefore I can."
- University of Warsaw (May 2012), University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (November 2008), and University of California-Santa Barbara (June 2008): "New foundations for imperative logic II: Pure imperative inference."
- University of Warsaw (May 2012), Arizona State University (April 2007), and University of Wisconsin-Madison (January 2006): "New foundations for imperative logic I: Logical connectives, consistency, and quantifiers."

- University of Denver (October 2005): "Against moral character evaluations: The undetectability of virtue and vice."
- First Formal Epistemology Workshop (University of California at Berkeley, May 2004): "Have your cake and eat it too: The Old Principal Principle reconciled with the New."
- University of British Columbia (July 2002): "New foundations for deontic logic: A preliminary sketch."
- University of British Columbia (July 2001) and 2001 Pacific APA (San Francisco): "Restraint is sweeter than revenge: The prudential rationality of habitual respect."
- Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies (July 2001), Jesus College, Oxford (March 2001), University of St Andrews (February 2001), Iowa State University (January 2001), California Institute of Technology (May 2000), New York University (January 2000), and Carnegie Mellon University (January 2000): "Against moral character evaluations."
- London School of Economics and Political Science (December 2000): "Can I kill my younger self? Time travel and the Retro-Suicide Paradox."

**Refereed talks**
- 2020 Central APA (Chicago): "The individuation of obligations."
- 2019 Central APA (Denver): "A new argument for ought-implies-can."
- DEON 2016 – 13th International Conference on Deontic Logic and Normative Systems (Bayreuth): "Natural deduction for imperative logic II: Quantified pure imperative logic."
- DEON 2014 – 12th International Conference on Deontic Logic and Normative Systems (Ghent): "Natural deduction for imperative logic I: Sentential pure imperative logic."
- 2012 Central APA (Chicago): "A general definition of argument validity."
- Seventh Formal Epistemology Workshop (Konstanz, September 2010): "New foundations for imperative logic III: A general definition of argument validity."
- 2010 Central APA (Chicago): "In defense of imperative inference."
- 2008 Pacific APA (Pasadena) and Fourth Formal Epistemology Workshop (Carnegie Mellon University, June 2007): "New foundations for imperative logic II: Pure imperative inference."
- 2007 Central APA (Chicago): "Three objections to ought-implies-can."
- 2006 Central APA (Chicago): "I ought, therefore I can."
- 2006 Pacific APA (Portland) and DEON 2004 – Seventh International Workshop on Deontic Logic in Computer Science (Madeira): "New foundations for imperative logic I: Logical connectives, consistency, and quantifiers."
- 2005 Central APA (Chicago): "Do cry over spilt milk: Possibly you can change the past."
- 2003 Central APA (Cleveland): "Aristotle on the best good: Is *Nicomachean Ethics* 1094a18-22 fallacious?"
- 2002 Philosophy of Science Association Conference (Milwaukee): "Hempel's raven paradox: A lacuna in the standard Bayesian solution."
- DEON 2002 – Sixth International Workshop on Deontic Logic in Computer Science (London): "New foundations for deontic logic: A preliminary sketch."
- 2002 Rutgers Epistemology Conference: "Have your cake and eat it too: The Old Principal Principle reconciled with the New."
- 2002 Pacific APA (Seattle): "Time travel: Two kinds of ability paradoxes."
- 1999 Eastern APA (Boston): "Can I kill my younger self? Time travel and the Retro-Suicide Paradox."
- 1999 Central APA (New Orleans): "Against global moral evaluations."
- 1999 Pacific APA (Berkeley): "Most people are overall neither good nor bad."
- 1998 Philosophy of Science Association Conference (Kansas City) and 1998 World Congress of Philosophy (Boston): "Who's afraid of undermining? Why the Principal Principle need not contradict Humean Supervenience."
- 1998 Pacific APA (Los Angeles) and 1998 World Congress of Philosophy (Boston): "Epsilon-ergodicity and the success of equilibrium statistical mechanics."

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| **Comments** | • 2008 Wisconsin Epistemology Conference: Comments on Earl Conee's "Rational disagreement defended." |
| | • 2006 Formal Epistemology Workshop: Comments on Lydia McGrew's "Is foundationalism good for Bayesianism?" and on Timothy McGrew's "Is Bayesianism good for foundationalism?" |
| | • 2005 Formal Epistemology Workshop: Comments on Greg Restall and Gillian Russell's "Barriers to inference." |

**Teaching experience**

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

<u>Graduate seminars</u>
*Imperative Logic* (Spring 2007, 2022; Fall 2014).
*Time Travel* (Fall 2008, 2020).
*Moral Dilemmas* (Fall 2011, 2018).
*Deontic Logic* (Fall 2016).
*Deontic Logic and Moral Dilemmas* (Fall 2010).
<u>Upper-level undergraduate courses</u>
*Time Travel* (Fall 2022, 2023).
*Modal Logic* (Fall 2009; Spring 2012, 2014-2023).
*Symbolic Logic* (Fall 2007, 2015, 2017, 2021; Spring 2007-2009, 2011, 2013).
<u>Lower-level undergraduate courses</u>
*Elementary Logic* (Fall 2007-2011, 2013-2018, 2020-2023; Spring 2008-2023).
*Reason in Communication* (Summer 2013).
*Contemporary Moral Issues* (Summer 2007-2012, 2018-2023).

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES, IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Spring 2002, Spring 2003, Summer 2004, & Spring 2006: *Moral Theory and Practice*.
Fall 2001, Fall 2002, & Summer 2006: *Ethical Theory*.

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY, THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Spring 2001: Independent instructor for *Introduction to Symbolic Logic*.
Winter 2001 & Fall 2000: Independent instructor for *Introduction to Logic*.
Fall 1997: Graduate Student Instructor for *Contemporary Moral Problems*.
Spring 1997: Teaching Assistant for *Law and Philosophy*.
Fall 1996: Teaching Assistant for *Philosophy of Religion*.
Spring 1996: Teaching Apprentice for *Introduction to Philosophy*.
Fall 1995: Teaching Apprentice for *Personal Decisions*.

MBA PROGRAM, THE COLLEGE OF SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE (ATHENS, GREECE)
Spring 1994: Independent instructor for *Applied Statistics* and *Management Science*.
Fall 1993: Independent instructor for *Applied Statistics* and *Quantitative Methods*.

MBA PROGRAM, UNIVERSITY OF INDIANAPOLIS INTERNATIONAL (ATHENS, GREECE)
Spring 1994: Independent instructor for *Mathematics for Business*.
Winter Intersession 1994 and Fall 1993: Independent instructor for *Statistical Inference*.

SLOAN SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT, MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Fall 1990: Teaching Assistant for *Introduction to Mathematical Programming*.
Spring 1989: Teaching Assistant for *Introduction to Management Science*.

**Research experience**

GERMAN AEROSPACE RESEARCH ESTABLISHMENT (BRAUNSCHWEIG, GERMANY)
Summer 1996: Postdoctoral research associate in the European Union research project *NOAA* (New Optimization Approaches for Air Traffic Control).
1994-1995: Postdoctoral research fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.

DEPARTMENT OF NAVAL ENGINEERING , NATIONAL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS
> 1992-1994: Postdoctoral research associate in the European Union research project *ATOMOS* (Advanced Technologies to Optimize Manpower Onboard Ships).

**Service**
- Reviewer for *The Philosophical Review*, *The Journal of Philosophy*, *Mind*, *Noûs*, *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, *Philosophical Studies*, *The Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, *Philosophers' Imprint*, *Philosophical Quarterly*, *American Philosophical Quarterly*, *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*, *Thought*, *Journal of Philosophical Logic*, *Studia Logica*, *Logique et Analyse*, *Theoria*, *Philosophy of Science*, *The British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*, *Erkenntnis*, *Synthese*, *Foundations of Science*, *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*, *International Studies in the Philosophy of Science*, *European Journal for Philosophy of Science*, *Journal for General Philosophy of Science*, *Ethics*, *The Journal of Ethics*, *Journal of Moral Philosophy*, *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, *Journal of Ethics and Social Philosophy*, *The Southern Journal of Philosophy*, *Journal of Philosophical Research*, *Philosophical Psychology*, *Philosophical Papers*, *Philosophia*, *Ratio*, *Dialectica*, *Inquiry*, *Social Theory and Practice*, *Minds and Machines*, *British Journal for the History of Philosophy*, *Cognition*, and *Legal Theory*.
- Nominating editor, *The Philosopher's Annual*, 2009-2023.
- National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship panelist, 2019.
- Program committee member, DEON (International Conference on Deontic Logic and Normative Systems) 2016, 2018, 2020/21, and 2023.
- Program committee member, 2009, 2011, and 2014 Central APA meetings.
- Program committee member, 2008 Philosophy of Science Association conference.
- Co-organizer, 2008 Formal Epistemology Workshop.

**Other**
1992-1994: Mandatory military service in the Greek Navy.

*Last updated: 26 November 2023*