

Vance Aaron Ricks
Department of Philosophy and Religion / College of Computer Science
Northeastern University
E-mail: v.ricks@northeastern.edu

Areas of Specialization: Moral Philosophy, Social Philosophy, Philosophy of Technology

Areas of Competence: Informal Logic, 19th-century Philosophy, Political Philosophy

Education:

Stanford University (Palo Alto, California), Ph.D. (Philosophy)

Dissertation: "Friendship as Shared Intentional Activity"

Dissertation Committee: Michael Bratman (advisor), Julius Moravcsik, Debra Satz

Guilford College (Greensboro, North Carolina), A.B. (Philosophy)

Positions Held:

Northeastern University (July 2021 – present):

Associate Teaching Professor of Philosophy and Computer Science

Guilford College:

Associate Professor of Philosophy (1999 – 2021); Visiting Instructor (1998 – 1999); Visiting Lecturer (1996)

University of Minnesota – Twin Cities (Spring 2007):

Visiting Professor of Philosophy

Colby-Sawyer College (Spring 2003):

Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy

Stanford University (Summer 1999, 2000, 2002)

Instructor, Philosophy Discovery Institute

Stanford University (1994-1996):

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Courses Taught (italicized course title = taught at Northeastern):

<i>Technology and Human Values</i>	Confucian Philosophies
Contemporary Moral Theories	Ethical Leadership
Ethics (including Honors sections)	Ethics In A Digital World
First-Year Seminar: Science Fiction and Philosophy	Foundations of Ethics
Formal Logic	Free Will and Moral Responsibility (Honors)
Informal Logic (including Honors sections)	John Stuart Mill
Metaethics	Mind and Nature: Topics in Philosophy of Mind
Philosophy and Literature	Philosophy and Sexuality
Philosophy of Friendship (graduate seminar)	Philosophy/Psychology of Parenthood (co-taught)
Secrets and Lies	Social and Political Philosophy
Virtual Selves: Identities and Communities Online	Senior Project and Thesis Supervision

Administrative/Leadership Experience:

Guilford College:

Interim Associate Academic Dean (July 2020 – July 2021)

Chairperson, Department of Philosophy (rotating terms)

Chairperson, Faculty Development Committee (2014 – 2017)

Faculty co-leader, January Term in Xinjiang Autonomous Region, China (January 2017)
Faculty leader, Semester in Southwest China (January 2016 – May 2016)
Interim Director of the First Year Program (January 2005 – July 2005)
Director of the Honors Program (August 2003 – May 2010)

Selected Publications and Related Scholarly Communications

Toward a Rational and Ethical Sociotechnical System of Autonomous Vehicles: A Novel Application of Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis (co-authored; PLOS One, 13 August 2021, <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0256224>)

Mozilla Foundation, Responsible Computer Science Challenge Online Playbook, at <https://foundation.mozilla.org/en/what-we-fund/awards/teaching-responsible-computing-playbook/>, (contributor and co-editor; March 2021)

Gossip In the Digital Age (In Social Media and the Value of Truth (Berrin Beasley and Mitchell Haney, eds., Lexington Books, 2013))

Which Facts Are Relevant? (In A Twenty-First Century Ethical Toolbox (Anthony Weston, Oxford University Press, 2nd (2008), 3rd (2013), and 4th (2018) eds.))

“Digital Dialogue” podcast episode 51 (“Digital Public”), at <http://www.personal.psu.edu/cpl2/blogs/digitaldialogue/2011/10/digital-dialogue-51-digital-public.html>

Selected Invited Presentations

“There’s An App for That’, But Should There Be?” (SMASH Academy x Northeastern)
17 July 2021

“Responsible Computing Curricula: How Do We Do It?” (Workshop session at MozillaFestival)
17 March 2021

“A Craving for Higher Things?: John Stuart Mill’s Religious Belief” (Presented at the American Philosophical Association Eastern Division conference, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)
10 January 2020

“I Just Want To Be Entertained! Virtue, Vice, and Fandom” (UNC-Greensboro, Greensboro, NC)
20 September 2017

“Privacy, Reputation, and Selves” (North Carolina Governor’s School, Salem, NC)
30 June 2017

“Code, Openness, and the Academy” (Elon University School of Law, Greensboro, NC)
01 February 2016

Selected Professional Memberships

American Association of Philosophy Teachers
American Association of University Professors
American Philosophical Association
Society for Philosophy and Technology

Selected Professional Service

Reviewer, *AI & Society*
Reviewer, *Journal of Information Technology and Politics*

Reviewer, *Teaching Philosophy*

Reviewer, [Introduction To Philosophy: Ethics](https://press.rebus.community/intro-to-phil-ethics/#main) (Hendricks, Christina and George Matthews, editors, Rebus Community Press, 2019, <https://press.rebus.community/intro-to-phil-ethics/#main>)

Selected Fellowships and Honors

Bruce B. Stewart Teaching Excellence Award, Guilford College, Spring 2006

Kenan Faculty Research Grant, Guilford College, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2013, 2016

ACE Fellowship, Colby-Sawyer College, Spring 2003

Ed Lowe Teaching Excellence Award, Guilford College, Spring 2000

Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship (1993 - 1996)