Dan Baras
CURRICULUM VITAE

Personal Information

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Areas of Research & Teaching

Areas of Specialty: ethics, epistemology, philosophy of science, philosophy of religion

Areas of Competence: philosophy of language, logic, Judaism & Jewish philosophy

Employment

- Senior Lecturer (tenure track), Department of Philosophy, Bar-Ilan University (2022–present)
- Humboldt Fellowship for Experienced Researchers, LMU Munich and FU Berlin (2022, declined)
- The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, The Martin Buber Society of Fellows, Post-Doctoral Fellow (2017–2021)
- The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, The Center for Moral and Political Philosophy, Post-Doctoral Fellow for annual project: Biology and Ethics (2016–2017)

Visiting positions

- Harvard University, Associate of the Department of Philosophy (Aug–Dec 2019)
- New York University, Visiting Scholar at the Department of Philosophy (Sep–Oct 2016)
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Visiting Student at the Department of Linguistics and Philosophy (fall 2013; fall 2014)

Education

- Ph.D. Philosophy: Ben Gurion University (2011–2017)
- Dissertation Title: Epistemic Challenges to Robust Moral Realism
- Supervisors: David Enoch, Yehuda Gellman
- M.A. Philosophy: The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (2006–2010)
- B.Ed. Jewish Studies: Herzog College (2002–2005)
- [Rabbinic Studies, Yeshivat Har Etzion 1999–2005]

Publications

Books:

- *Calling for Explanation* (Oxford University Press, 2022)
- *Against the Current: Why I Am No Longer Religious* (in Hebrew: נגד הזרם: מדוע אני כבר לא דתי), Pardes Publishing, 2025

Peer Reviewed Journals:

- 'Searching for Epistemic Norms that Matter', *Analysis* (2025)
- 'Is Carbon Offsetting Moral?', *Ecology and Environment* 16:3 (2025) [Hebrew]
- 'Carbon Offsetting' *Ethics, Policy and Environment* 27:3 (2024), pp. 281–298
- 'What Makes Something Surprising?' (with Oded Na'aman), *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 105:1 (2022), pp. 195–215.
- 'How Can Necessary Facts Call for Explanation?', *Synthese* 198:12 (2021), pp. 11607–11624.
- 'Modal Security' (with Justin Clarke-Doane), *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research* 102 (2021), pp. 162–183
- 'A Moral Argument against Absolute Authority of the Torah', *Sophia* 60:2 (2021), pp. 307–329
- 'A Strike against a Striking Principle', *Philosophical Studies* 177:6 (2020), pp. 1501–1514
- 'No Need to Get Up from the Armchair (If You Are Interested in Debunking Arguments in Metaethics)', *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* 23:3–4 (2020), pp. 575–590
- 'Calling for Explanation: The Case of the Thermodynamic Past State' (with Orly Shenker), *European Journal for Philosophy of Science* 10:3 (2020)
- 'How Close Are Impossible Worlds? A Critique of Brogaard and Salerno's Account of Counterpossibles', *dialectica* 73:3 (2019), pp. 315–329
- 'Why Do Certain States of Affairs Call for Explanation? A Critique of Two Horwichian Accounts', *Philosophia* 47:5 (2019), pp. 1405–1419
- 'The Explanatory Challenge: Moral Realism Is No Better Than Theism', *European Journal of Philosophy* 26:1 (2018), pp. 368–389
- 'A Reliability Challenge to Theistic Platonism', *Analysis* 77:3 (2017), pp. 479–487
- 'Our Reliability is in Principle Explainable', *Episteme* 14:2 (2017), pp. 197–211

In Progress:

- 'Is There a Real Difference Between Undercutting and Rebutting?' (under review)
- 'No Bayesian Threat to Phenomenal Conservatism' (under review)
- 'Politics in Academia' (under review)
- 'Refuting Arguments from Prophecy' (under review)
- 'Phenomenal Conservatism vs Bayesianism: Three Models of Co-existence' (under review)
- Why I Am No Longer Religious (English translation of my book)

Book Reviews:

- 'Graham Oppy. 2018. Atheism and Agnosticism', *Reading Religion* (2019)
- 'Russ Shafer-Landau (ed.). 2012. Oxford Studies in Metaethics Volume 7', *The Journal of Moral Philosophy* 12/3 (2015), pp. 359 – 362.
- 'Jill Graper Hernandez (ed.). 2011. The New Intuitionism', *Metapsychology Online Reviews* 16/49 (2012)
- 'Norman Solomon. 2012. Torah from Heaven', *Center for Jewish Law and Contemporary Civilization blog* (2012)

Public Philosophy

- 'It Is Time To Change The Way We Treat Corpses' (Hebrew), *Ha'yanshuf: Danny Orbach's Blog* (24.5.2025)
- 'Claiming That We Should Have Less Children Does Not Imply a Hatred for Humanity' (Hebrew), *Haaretz* (18.1.2022)
- 'All Racists are Racists: Racism, Stereotypes and Generalizations' (Hebrew), *Alaxon* (2020)
- 'A Moral Argument Against Absolute Authority of The Torah' (Hebrew), in *Judaism, Sovereignty and Human Rights, vol. 2* (2016), the Israel Democracy Institute
- 'An Outsider's Perspective on the Sabbath' (Hebrew), *Deot* 76
- 'Two Selves within Myself', 'My First Kiss' (Hebrew), *Dvarim* (2014, 2015)

Podcast:

- *Philosophy in Time of War* (Hebrew, with Arnon Keren), A Podcast of the Israeli Philosophy Association

Podcast Episodes:

- ' "Against the Current": A Journey of Confrontation with Previous Beliefs and Worldviews, and Leaving Religion' (Hebrew), *Me'orer Machloket* (2025)
- 'The Moral Significance of Carbon Taxes' (Hebrew), *Bar-Da'at* (2024), Bar-Ilan University's podcast channel.
- 'The role of Philosophy in Times of War and Crisis' (with Arnon Keren, Hebrew), *Philosophy in Time of War* (2023)
- 'Is it Rational do Deliberate Rationally about Religious Beliefs?' (Hebrew) *Philosophy in Time of War* (2023)
- 'Is Carbon Offsetting Moral?' (Hebrew), *Bar-Da'at* (2023), Bar-Ilan University's podcast channel.
- 'Do Some Facts Call out for Explanation?', *Research Bites: the podcast of the Martin Buber Society of Fellows* (2021).

Appearances in Public Media:

- Itamar Meiri, 'Stopping at the Second Child' (Hebrew), Kan 11, 15/4/2023
- Omer Yerushalmi, 'The Israeli Philosopher and the Moral Dilemma of Combating the Climate Crises' (Hebrew), YNet (16.7.2021)

Teaching

Courses marked with an asterisk (*) are either planned or currently being taught. Courses marked with an at sign (@) were taught online asynchronously.

Courses taught at Bar-Ilan University:

- Michael Walzer's Just and Unjust Wars (2025–26)
- The Meaning of Life (spring 2025)
- Analytic Philosophy (fall 2024)
- Climate Change Ethics (fall 2022–23; spring 2023@; fall 2024@; *spring 2026@) [lectures available on YouTube]
- Philosophy of Language (2022–23; 2024–25@)
- Thomas Nagel's Mortal Questions (2024–25)
- Environmental Ethics (spring 2024; spring 2025)
- Metaethics (2023–24)
- Theism & Atheism, co-taught with Aaron Segal (fall 2023–24) [lectures available on YouTube]
- Bayesian Epistemology (2023–24)
- Derek Parfit's *Reasons and Persons* (2022–23)

Previous teaching experience:

- 'Ethics of Climate Change', The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, fall 2020–21; fall 2021–22
- 'Theism & Atheism', co-taught with Aaron Segal, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Spring 2020
- 'Advanced Epistemology: Striking Facts', The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Spring 2019
- 'Topics in the Philosophy of Life Science', Faculty of Medicine, Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, fall 2015–2016; fall 2016–2017; fall 2017–2018
- 'Philosophy of Science', Department of Psychology, Ben Gurion University, Spring 2016
- Lecturer in Talmud and Jewish Philosophy at various institutions including Bet Midrash Havruta at the Hebrew University and Drisha Institute for Jewish Education (2007–2012)

Teachers' Training:

- Workshops by Bar-Ilan University's Learning and Teaching Division.
- Effective Teaching in Higher Education, the Hebrew University's Teaching & Learning Center (2018)
- High school teaching, training, and experience as part of B.Ed. (2003–2007)

Academic Presentations

- Talks marked with an asterisk (*) have not yet occurred.
- * 'Bayesianism vs Phenomenal Conservatism: Three Models of Co-Existence', Swedish Congress of Philosophy, Stockholm University (2026)

- * 'No Bayesian Threat to Phenomenal Conservatism', Canadian Philosophical Association Congress, Dalhousie University (2026)
- 'Politics in Academia', Australasian Association of Philosophy Conference (2025)
- Book Panel on *Against the Current: Why I Am No Longer Religious*, Israel Philosophy Association Conference (2025)
- 'What Are Privileged Epistemic Principles?', The Cohn Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Ideas, Colloquium, Tel Aviv University (2025)
- Comment on Samantha Bennett, 'The Generality Problem of Human Extinction Risk Estimation', Central APA (2025)
- Comment on Nethanel Lipshitz, 'The Sorrow of Hebrew Philosophy' (Hebrew), Philosophy Department Colloquium, Bar-Ilan University (2024)
- Comment on Ori Sharon, 'Climate Emergency: A Broken Promise' (in Hebrew), Law Faculty Colloquium, Bar-Ilan University (2024)
- Author Meets Critics session on my book Calling for Explanation, Eastern APA (2024)
- 'Calling for Explanation', mini workshop in decision theory, Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy, LMU Munich (2024)
- 'Undercutting vs. Rebutting Defeaters', 26th meeting of the Israeli Philosophy Association (2023)
- 'What's Wrong with Carbon Offsetting?'
  - Bar-Ilan University, School of Sustainability Colloquium (2022)
  - Keynote speaker at the 4th Philosophy 360 Student Conference, the Hebrew University (2021)
  - 24th Meeting of the New Israeli Philosophy Association (2021) [part of a panel I initiated on philosophy and climate change]
  - 49th Meeting of the Israeli Society for Ecology and Environmental Studies (2021)
- 'Do Some Facts Call for Explanation? What Does That Even Mean?'
  - The Hebrew University, Philosophy Department Colloquium (2022)
  - Uppsala University, Department of Philosophy, Research Seminar (2020)
  - Princeton Department of Psychology, Tania Lombrozo's Concepts and Cognition Lab (2019)
  - University of Maryland, Department of Philosophy (2019)
  - Harvard Department of Philosophy, Talk-Shop Series (2019)
  - Haifa University, Philosophy Department Colloquium (2019)
  - The Martin Buber Society of Fellows Colloquium, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (2019)
- 'What Makes Something Surprising? On Fitting Surprise'
  - Hebrew University, Interdisciplinary Workshop on Surprise (2020) (with Oded Na'aman)
  - 23rd Meeting of the New Israeli Philosophy Association, Tel Aviv (2020)

- M.I.T. Department of Cognitive Science, Josh Tenenbaum's Computational Cognitive Science Group (2019)

◎ 'A Strike Against A Striking Principle'

◎ Eastern APA, Philadelphia (2020)

- M.I.T. Epistemology Reading Group (2019)
- International Conference on Explanation in Philosophy, Wuhan University (2019)
- The Haifa Conference on the Philosophy of Religion, Haifa University (2018)
- Tel Hai College, Philosophy Department Colloquium (2017)

◎ 'A Moral Argument against Absolute Authority of the Torah'

- Association for Jewish Philosophy, online symposium (2019)

◎ 'How Can Necessary Facts Call for Explanation?'

- 93rd Joint Session of the Aristotelean Society and the Mind Association, Durham (2019)
- 22nd Meeting of the New Israeli Philosophy Association, Bar-Ilan University (2019)

◎ 'Modal Security'

- Cyprus MetaEthics workshop, University of Cyprus (2019)

◎ 'Does the Past Low Entropy of Our Universe Call for Explanation?'

- The 21st Meeting of the New Israeli Philosophy Association, Haifa University (2018)

◎ 'No Need to Get Up from The Armchair'

- Biology and Ethics: Prospects and Challenges, The Hebrew University (2017)

◎ 'Extraordinary Types: Schlesinger's Theory of Strikingness'

- Edelstein Center for the History and Philosophy of Science, the Hebrew University (2017)
- Philosophy Department Colloquium, the Hebrew University (2016)

◎ 'Strikingness: Why Do Certain States Of Affairs Call For Explanation?'

- Explanatory Reasoning in the Sciences, 2nd Jerusalem-MCMP Workshop in the Philosophy of Science, Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy (2017)
- Society of Christian Philosophers Eastern Regional Meeting, Rutgers (2016)
- Philosophy Department Colloquium, Ben Gurion University (2016)

◎ 'Our Reliability is Explainable: Responding to the Benacerraf-Field Challenge'

- The 18th Meeting of the New Israeli Philosophy Association, the Open University of Israel (2015)
- M.A.T.T.I., Massachusetts Institute of Technology (2014)
- The Underground Workshop, the Hebrew University (2014)

◎ 'Causal Debunking: Can the Causal History of a Belief Give One Reason to Drop the Belief?'

- The 16th Meeting of the New Israeli Philosophy Association, Bar Ilan University (2013)
- The 2nd HUJI Graduate Conference in Philosophy, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (2013)

- Epistemology Reading Group, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (2013)

◎ 'Darwinian Challenges to Realism in Morality and Religion'

- Knowledge, Reality and Value: East and West, the Society for Indian Philosophy and Religion, Kolkata, India (2013)
- HUJI Graduate Conference in Philosophy, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (2012)

◎ 'The Prophecy of the Jurist: Moral, Jurisprudential and Halakhic Intuitionism'

- Philosophical Investigation of the Hebrew Scriptures, Talmud and Midrash, Shalem Center, Jerusalem (2012)
- Legal Theory and Jewish Studies, Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem (2012)

◎ 'The Explanatory Challenge to Moral and Theistic Realism'

- The 15th Meeting of the New Israeli Philosophy Association, University of Haifa (2012)

◎ 'The Problem of Disagreement in Ethics and Religion'

- The Phenomenology of Faith, graduate workshop, Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem (2010)

◎ 'Moral Supervenience Arguments'

- The 14th Meeting of the New Israeli Philosophy Association, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (2011)
- Practical Ethics in Question, graduate workshop, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (2010)

workshop organization & Administrative Experience

◎ Bar-Ilan University's representative in the organizing committee of a national gathering of the Israeli humanities faculties, titled 'Democracy in Crisis: The Role of Universities and the Humanities'. [Was scheduled for Oct 2023 and canceled due to the outbreak of war]

◎ Moral philosophy section coordinator, 13th Annual German-Israeli Frontiers of Humanities Symposium, The Israeli Academy of Sciences and Humanities & the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Nov 2022

◎ Interdisciplinary International Workshop on 'Surprise', co-organized with Oded Na'aman, Hebrew University, June 2020 [applied for and received funding from the Edelstein Center for History and Philosophy of Science]

◎ Workshop and fellowship coordinator, 'Legal Theory and Jewish Studies', The Van Leer Institute and Cardozo School of Law (2011–2012)

◎ Founder and coordinator of 'Mitnadvei Shvut Am', a national volunteer project helping Ethiopian immigrants integrate in Israeli society, (2005–2007)

service

◎ Faculty of Humanities Diversity Officer, Bar-Ilan University (2025–present)

◎ Member of *The Young Scholars Forum in the Humanities and Social Sciences* (2024–2025).

◎ Member of Bar-Ilan University's *Green Community*, a group of academic and administrative faculty dedicated to making our campus more sustainable.

◎ Member of the *Israeli Climate Forum*, established by the President of Israel (2022–present)

- Member of *Philosophers for Sustainability*, a global initiative promoting sustainable practices in our profession (2020–present)

Refereeing

- Referee for journals: American Philosophical Quarterly, Analysis, Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Biology & Philosophy, Canadian Journal of Philosophy, Erkenntnis, Faith and Philosophy, Inquiry, Manuscrito, Mind, Philosophia, Philosophical Quarterly, Philosophical Studies, Philosophy Compass, Religious Studies, Sophia, Synthese.
- Referee for grant application: Polish National Science Center

Languages

Native languages: English, Hebrew

References

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