

Saba Bazargan-Forward

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Areas of Specialization

Normative Ethics, Applied Ethics

Areas of Competence

Political Theory, Legal Theory, Philosophy of Action

Research Description

I work primarily in normative ethics, with a focus on individual accountability for cooperatively committed wrongs. I have recently published a book on that topic, entitled '[Authority, Cooperation, and Accountability](#)'. I also work on war ethics, as well as on a variety of other issues, including: the moral analysis of coercion, the grounds for associative duties, and the morality of benefitting from injustice. My paper 'Moral Coercion' was featured in the *Philosopher's Annual Top Ten*.

Academic Positions

2016 –	Affiliate Professor University of San Diego School of Law
2025 –	Professor UC San Diego, La Jolla, CA
2015 – 2025	Associate Professor UC San Diego, La Jolla, CA
2009 – 2015	Assistant Professor UC San Diego, La Jolla, CA
2005 – 2009	Teaching Assistant, Graduate Student Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

Education

2002 – 2009	PhD in Philosophy Rutgers University
1996 – 2001	BA in Philosophy (departmental honors), BA in Political Science UC Los Angeles

Publications and Pre-Prints

Authored Books

1. Bazargan-Forward, Saba. [Authority, Cooperation, and Accountability](#). Oxford University Press, 2022.

Papers

1. Bazargan-Forward, Saba; Meradjuddin Khan Oidermaa. "The Past as Prologue: Accountability for Exacerbating Prior Wrongs," *Journal of Philosophy*, [forthcoming].
2. Bazargan-Forward, Saba. "Compensation and Necessity in War", *Philosophers' Imprint*, 26(3), 2026, pp. 1-17.
3. Bazargan-Forward, Saba. "The Moral Relevance of Intentions in Shared Action". In *Collective Responsibility - Perspectives on Political Philosophy from Social Ontology*, Eds. Säde Hormio, Bill Wringe. Springer, 2023.

4. Bazargan-Forward, Saba. "Ulterior Motives and Moral Injury in War". In *Moral Injury in the Humanities*, Eds. Andrew I. Cohen, Kathryn McClymond. Routledge, 2023.
5. Bazargan-Forward, Saba. "Grounding the Beneficiary Pays Principle". In *Oxford Studies in Political Philosophy, Vol. 8*, Eds. David Sobel, Steven Wall. Oxford University Press, 2021.
6. Bazargan-Forward, Saba. "Vesting Agent-Relative Permissions in a Proxy", *Law and Philosophy*, 37(6), 2018, pp. 671-695.
7. Bazargan-Forward, Saba. "The Identity-Enactment Account of Associative Duties", *Philosophical Studies*, 176, 2018, pp. 2351-2370
8. Bazargan-Forward, Saba. "Complicity." In *Routledge Handbook on Collective Intentionality*, Eds. Marija Jankovic, Kirk Ludwig. Routledge University Press, 2017.
9. Bazargan-Forward, Saba. "Weighing Civilian Lives in War: Domestic Versus Foreign". In *Cambridge Handbook on the Just War*, Ed. Larry May. Cambridge University Press, 2018.
10. Bazargan-Forward, Saba. "Standards of Risk in War and Civil Life". In *The Nature of Peace and the Morality of Armed Conflict*, Ed. Florian Demont. Palgrave, 2017.
11. Bazargan-Forward, Saba. "Compensation and Proportionality in War". In *Weighing Lives in War*, Eds., Claire Finkelstein, Larry May, Jens David Ohlin. Oxford University Press, 2017.
12. Bazargan-Forward, Saba. "Dignity, Self-Respect, and Bloodless Invasions". In *Who Should Die? The Ethics of Killing in War*, Eds., Ryan Jenkins, Bradley Strawser. Oxford University Press, 2017.
13. Bazargan-Forward, Saba. "Accountability and Intervening Agency: An Asymmetry between Upstream and Downstream Actors", *Utilitas*, 29(1), 2017, pp. 110-124.
14. Bazargan, Saba. "Defensive Wars and the Reprisal Dilemma", *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, 93(3), 2014, pp. 583-601.
15. Bazargan, Saba. "Non-Combatant Immunity and War-Profiteering". In *The Oxford Handbook of the Ethics of War*, Eds. Helen Frowe, Seth Lazar. Oxford University Press, 2017.
16. Bazargan, Saba. "Defensive Liability Without Culpability". In *The Ethics of Self- Defense*, Eds. Christian Coons, Michael E. Weber. Oxford University Press, 2016.
17. Bazargan, Saba. "Killing Minimally Responsible Threats", *Ethics*, 125(1), 2014, pp. 114-136.
18. Bazargan, Saba. "Moral Coercion", *Philosophers' Imprint*, 14(11), 2014, pp. 1-18. [Winner in 2014 'Philosopher's Annual']
19. Bazargan, Saba. "Morally Heterogeneous Wars", *Philosophia: Philosophical Quarterly of Israel*, 41(4), 2013, pp. 959-975.
20. Bazargan, Saba. "Proportionality, Territorial Occupation, and Enabled Terrorism", *Law and Philosophy*, 32(4), 2013, pp. 435-457.
21. Bazargan, Saba. "Complicitous Liability in War", *Philosophical Studies*, 165(1), 2013, pp. 175-195.
22. Bazargan, Saba. "Varieties of Contingent Pacifism". In *How We Fight*, Eds. Helen Frowe; Gerald Lang. Oxford University Press, 2014.
23. Bazargan, Saba. "The Permissibility of Aiding and Abetting Unjust Wars", *Journal of Moral Philosophy*, 8(4), 2011, pp. 513-529.

Book Reviews

1. Bazargan-Forward, Saba. Review of *No Justice, No Peace: The Ethics of Violent Protests*. Avia Pasternak, in *Ethics*, [forthcoming].
2. Bazargan-Forward, Saba. Review of *Organizations as Wrongdoers: From Ontology to Morality*. Stephanie Collins, in *Mind*, 134(534), 2025.
3. Bazargan-Forward, Saba. Review of *Spying Through a Glass Darkly: The Ethics of Espionage and Counter-Intelligence*. Cécile Fabre, in *Ethics*, 133(2), 2023.
4. Bazargan-Forward, Saba. Review of *Military Medical Ethics in Contemporary Armed Conflict: Mobilizing Medicine in the Pursuit of Just War*. Michael L. Gross, in *Bioethics*,

- 6(6), 2022.
5. Bazargan-Forward, Saba. Review of To Do, To Die, to Reason Why. Victor Tadros, in *Ethics*, 131(4), 2021.
 6. Bazargan-Forward, Saba. Review of War by Agreement. Yitzhak Benbaji and Daniel Statman, in *Notre Dame Philosophical Review*, June 28, 2020.
 7. Bazargan-Forward, Saba. Review of Terrorism and the Right to Resist. Christopher Finlay, in *Ethics*, 127(2), 2017.
 8. Bazargan, Saba. Review of Defensive Killing. Helen Frowe, in *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, 94(3), 2015.
 9. Bazargan, Saba. Review of Accountability for Killing: Moral Responsibility for Collateral Damage in America's Post-9/11 Wars. Neta C. Crawford, in *Ethics and International Affairs*, 29(1), 2015.
 10. Bazargan, Saba. Review of Cosmopolitan War. Cecile Fabre, in *Mind*, 123(490), 2014.
 11. Bazargan, Saba. Review of War and Moral Dissonance. Peter French, in *Journal of Moral Philosophy*, 10(1), 2013.
 12. Bazargan, Saba. Review of Morality and War. David Fisher, in *Notre Dame Philosophical Review*, November 9, 2011.
 13. Bazargan, Saba. Review of Just and Unjust Warriors: The Moral and Legal Status of Soldiers. Eds. David Rodin and Henry Shue, in *Ethics*, 119(3), 2009.

Edited Work

1. The Routledge Handbook of Collective Responsibility. Eds. Saba Bazargan-Forward; Deborah Tollefsen. Taylor & Francis, 2020.
2. Ethics of War. Eds. Saba Bazargan-Forward; Sam Rickless. Oxford University Press, 2017.

Fellowships, Grants, and Awards

- 2025 – UC San Diego Academic Senate Grant Awardee
 2023 – Small Grants Scheme, International Social Ontology Society
 2022 – UC San Diego Academic Senate Grant Awardee
 2014 – Philosopher’s Annual Top Ten Papers Awardee (for “Moral Coercion”)
 2013 – Center for the Humanities Faculty Fellowship Awardee
 2012 – Hellman Fellowship Awardee

Organizational Work

1. 2023 – Co-Organizer, “Authority, Power, and Accountability” workshop, Stockholm University
2. 2021-2022 – Director for the Summer Program for the Advancement of Women in Philosophy, UC San Diego
3. 2021 – Organizer for Social Ontology, part of the biennial conference series sponsored by the International Social Ontology Society and the European Network for Social Ontology
4. 2017 – Convener for MANCEPT 14th Annual Conference, 2017, University of Manchester, UK
5. 2013 – Co-Organizer for Symposium on War Ethics, 2013, part of the Ethics in the Public Sphere Series at UC San Diego

Public-Facing Work

1. Bazargan-Forward, Saba. “The Ethics of the Killing of a Health Insurance CEO” *Daily Nous*. Dec. 2024. <https://dailynous.com/2024/12/15/complications-ethics-killing-health-insurance-ceo/>
2. Bazargan-Forward, Saba. “The Duty to Protect in the Israel-Gaza Conflict.” *Public Ethics*. Nov. 2023. <https://www.publicethics.org/post/the-duty-to-protect-in-the-israel-gaza-conflict>

3. Bazargan-Forward, Saba. "Israel, Hamas, and "Blowback." *Daily Nous*. Dec. 2023. <https://dailynous.com/2023/12/05/israel-hamas-and-blowback-guest-post/>
4. Bazargan-Forward, Saba. Interview with Robert Talisse, *New Books Network*. Nov. 2022. <https://newbooksnetwork.com/authority-cooperation-and-accountability>
5. Bazargan-Forward, Saba. "How Can War Ever be Just?" *IAI News*. Mar. 2022. <https://iai.tv/articles/the-rules-of-war-are-absurd-but-necessary-auid-2068>
6. Bazargan-Forward, Saba. *Daily Nous*. "War Ethics and Russia's Invasion of Ukraine." Mar. 2022. <https://dailynous.com/2022/03/02/philosophers-on-the-russian-attack-on-ukraine/#bazarganforward>
7. Bazargan-Forward, Saba. Interview with Richard Marshall, *3:16AM*. April 2017. <https://www.3-16am.co.uk/articles/just-war>
8. Bazargan-Forward, Saba. "What To Do About ISIS? A Moral Perspective." *The Critique*. Dec. 2016. <http://www.thecritique.com/articles/what-to-do-about-isis/>

Conferences, Symposia, & Workshop Presentations

- 2025
- Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress 18 (keynote speaker), University of Boulder
 - Moral Complicity: Theory and Context (invited speaker), University of Toronto
 - Just Philosophy: A Tribute to Jeff McMahan (invited commentator), Corpus Christi College, University of Oxford
- 2024
- Sievert Lecture (invited speaker), University of Iowa, Dept. of Philosophy
 - Wronging and Making Right: The Morality and Law of Remedial Practice, Jagiellonian University, Krakow
 - Journal of Social Ontology Symposium for special issue on 'Authority, Cooperation, and Accountability' (invited author), via Zoom
 - Diversity Institute Alumni Session (invited commentator), APA Central, New Orleans
 - Author Meets Critics Symposium on 'Authority, Cooperation, and Accountability' (author), APA Central, New Orleans
 - Author Meets Critics Symposium on 'Authority, Cooperation, and Accountability' (author), APA Eastern, NYC
 - Workshop on Harming, Rescuing, and Rights (invited speaker), USC
- 2023
- Conceptual Foundations of Conflict Project (invited speaker), USC
 - Symposium on 'Authority, Cooperation, and Accountability' (author), US Naval Academy, (via Zoom)
 - Social Ontology 2023, University of Stockholm
 - Workshop on Authority, Power, and Accountability (co-presenter, co-organizer), Stockholm, Sweden
 - Society for Applied Philosophy, University of Antwerp
 - Collective Ethics Seminar (invited speaker), University of Vienna
 - Centre for Ethics (invited speaker), University of Toronto
- 2022
- Social Ontology and Collective Intentionality, University of Vienna
 - Bled Philosophical Conference - Ethical Issues (invited speaker), Bled, Slovenia
 - Central States Philosophical Association Annual Meeting, University of Nebraska, Lincoln
 - South Carolina Society for Philosophy Annual Meeting, Converse College
 - Symposium on Collective Responsibility (invited speaker), APA Pacific, Vancouver
- 2021
- Ethics of War and Peace Conference (keynote speaker), West Point Military Academy
 - The 75th Mountain Plains Conference, Utah State University
 - Small Acts, Big Harms, University of Helsinki
- 2020
- The XII Biennial Collective Intentionality Conference, Neuchâtel, Switzerland
 - Book Symposium (invited speaker), APA Central, Chicago
- 2019
- Western Michigan University Graduate Student Philosophy Conference (keynote speaker)
 - New Horizons in Action and Agency (invited speaker), University of Helsinki
 - European Network for Social Ontology (ENSO IV), Tampere University
 - Ethical AI for Defence Workshop (invited speaker), Australian Defense College, Canberra
 - Society for Psychology and Philosophy (invited speaker), UC San Diego
 - 13th Northwestern Society for the Theory of Ethics and Politics, Northwestern University
 - Humanistic Perspectives on Moral Injury (keynote speaker), Georgia State University

- Departmental Colloquium (invited speaker), University of Memphis, Dept. of Philosophy
- 2018
- 11th International Conference on Applied Ethics, Kyoto University, Japan
 - International Social Ontology Society, Tufts University
 - Legal Theory Workshop (invited speaker), University of Virginia, Charlottesville
- 2017
- MANCEPT 14th Annual Conference (convener), University of Manchester, UK
 - Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress 10, University of Boulder
 - Workshop on ‘Law and Morality at War’ (invited speaker), Stockholm Centre for the Ethics of War and Peace
 - Society for Applied Philosophy, University of Copenhagen
 - Invited Workshop on Defensive Violence, University of Warwick
 - Workshop on Revolution, Oppression, & Political Violence, YTL Law and Justice Forum, King’s College London
 - Departmental Colloquium (invited speaker), Arizona State University, Dept. of Philosophy
 - Workshop on Defensive Liability (invited speaker), University of Delaware
 - Symposium, APA Eastern (invited speaker), Baltimore, MD
- 2016
- Gothenburg Biennial Responsibility Conference, Gothenburg University
 - Seventh Annual ELAC Workshop on War, European University Institute, Florence, Italy
 - Bled Philosophical Conference - Ethical Issues (invited speaker), Bled, Slovenia
 - Colloquium, APA Central, 2016 Chicago, IL
- 2015
- The Future of Just War: Theoretical and Practical Challenges, Monterey, CA
 - Workshop on Just War Theory (Just World Institute), University of Edinburgh
 - Collective Responsibility for the Future, University College, Dublin
 - Society for Applied Philosophy, University of Edinburgh
 - Workshop of the Ethics of Defensive Violence, University of Southern California
- 2014
- Invited Colloquium, University of British Columbia
 - Workshop: Collectivity, University of Bristol
 - Ninth Annual International Conference on Philosophy (ATINER), Athens, Greece
 - International Society for Military Ethics, University of Notre Dame, IN
 - Workshop on Feasibility and the Ethics of War, ANU
 - Australasian Association of Philosophy Conference, ANU
 - The Center for Ethics and the Rule of Law (CERL), University of Penn. Law School
 - Workshop on New Directions in Pacifism, Vanderbilt University
- 2013
- Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress 6, University of Boulder
 - Workshop on *Ends of Harm*, Society for Applied Philosophy, Rogoznica, Croatia
 - Bowling Green Workshop in Applied Ethics and Policy, Bowling Green, OH
 - Colloquium, APA, Pacific, San Francisco
- 2012
- Society for Applied Philosophy, University of Oxford
 - International Law and Ethics Conference Series, University of Belgrade, Serbia