



# Parr Center's Carolina Forum For Ethics

## 2020-2021

### Can We Still Be Friends?

- Event was held on October 28th, 2020 via Zoom
- This event was centered around the Ethics of Boycotting, Consumption, and Friendships. The event was meant to create discussion around the idea of whether or not you can still be friends with someone despite having differing beliefs and values, especially politically. Our event was right around the time of the 2020 election, which explains our motivation behind the creation of this. We noticed that many people were struggling to navigate relationships with friends and family, which is why we wanted to create a safe space for students to discuss when it is appropriate to not be friends with someone.
- The setup for the event consisted of the fellows in CFE constructing questions built around the arguments of "Yes, we can still be friends" and "No, one's morals weigh more than the relationship." We created a list of around 15 questions for attendees to answer surrounding these questions.
- This event was very successful with 35+ attendees ranging from undergraduate to graduate students who were all part of different programs and majors. Some key points from the event were that many students were able to share more about how their background and culture affected the way they approach the ethics of friendship.



### Broken Hearts Club

In February 2021, we hosted our second discussion subtitled "The Ethics of Ghosting, Chivalry, and Mixed Signals".

We examined a topic rarely touched by formal ethics: modern romance. We discussed "ghosting" through the conflicting lenses of utilitarianism (spared feelings and wasted time) and entitlement (to decency and closure), then engaged with chivalry in light of benevolent sexism, before concluding with mixed signals and the limits of a right to clear communication.



Key Takeaways:

- Attendance: ~ 20 participants
- Personal safety complicates the entitlements involved in ghosting and mixed signals
- Chivalry often constitutes benevolent sexism or is otherwise heteronormative
- Well-meaning chivalry motivated by societal pressures may be unjust but excusable

### Ethical Consumption

Carrying on with the theme of boycotting, consumption, and friendships, our third and final event centered around ethical consumption. We hosted a virtual panel discussion in order to consider and answer questions from our pod as well as the event attendees. As our discussion largely centered around capitalism, we sifted through the ethical significance of consuming outside of one's means or convenience for morality's sake. We then attempted to answer questions like whether or not we have moral obligations to endorse or boycott a company for any reason, as well as how these behaviors are seen as a polarizing, political statement. We appreciated attendees bringing insights on the impacts of thrifting, small and minority businesses, and worker mobilization. For your pondering, there is still the question of, if possible, how can we reach total ethical consumption?

Bonus points if you can think of a framework for ethical consumption that justifies online shopping.



### Thoughtful Thursdays

In Spring 2021, we launched our first social media campaign called "Thoughtful Thursdays" to highlight our CFE members and engage our audience in topics of ethics. Each Thursday, we featured one fellow, as well as their answer to a question about ethics.



We engaged our Instagram and Facebook followers in the following topics:

- Darian and Quinn started the conversation on whether we can separate the art from the artist.
- Caroli started the conversation on ethical questions in pop culture.
- Kobe started the conversation on the most pressing ethical questions of our time.
- Shiv and Henry started the conversation on the importance of studying ethics.
- Juliana started the conversation on everyday situations that require ethical considerations.
- Ash started the conversation on resources to learn more about ethics.

This year, our Instagram account has grown to 128 followers and our Facebook page has 127 followers.

### Who Are We?



Darian Buck, Executive Fellow, is a Senior Majoring in Philosophy and Women and Gender Studies and Minor in Social and Economic Justice.



Quinn Fong is a Philosophy major with Physics and WGST minors.



Henry Hawthorne IV is a senior majoring in Philosophy and minoring in Computer Science, and has been an undergraduate fellow at the Parr Center for two years.



In the pursuit of a career in Neurolaw, Juliana Hemela created her own interdisciplinary major here at UNC; combining Philosophy, Psychology, and Political Science courses.



Kobe Spells is a junior studying Arab Cultures and Political Science with a minor in Public Policy.



Caroline Carpenter is a senior from Elon, North Carolina. She is graduating with majors in Public Policy and Economics and a minor in PPE.

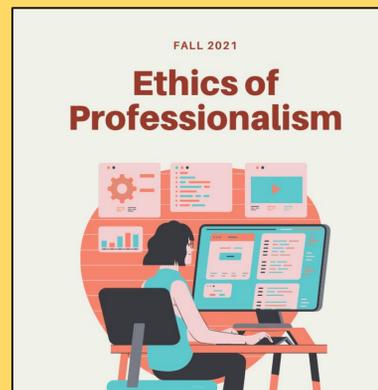


Ash Santos studies Psychology, Philosophy, and PPE.



Shivam (Shiv) Bhargava is a Parr Center Senior Fellow and junior at UNC majoring in Neuroscience with minors in Social & Economic Justice and Education.

### Looking Forward...



We got a jumpstart into next year with planning for an "Ethics of Professionalism" event! We have created a set of resources and potential questions to assist next year's CFE pod in hosting this event. Our resources explore the following topics:

- COVID-19 impacts on professionalism
- Political neutrality in the workplace
- Racism and bias in professionalism guidelines
- Sexism and racism in workplace attire
- Code switching
- Separations of work and artistic expression

We look forward to seeing where the 2021-2022 CFE team takes this and other future events!

*Acknowledgements: Thank you to our marvelous leader and Director of Undergraduate Programming, Sally Moore, for navigating this difficult year with grace. Thank you to our Parr Center Director, Dr. Sarah Stroud as well as the rest of the Parr Center Staff for making this year possible!*



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