

EMILY C. McWILLIAMS

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Department of Linguistics and Philosophy
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Areas of Specialization: Epistemology, Feminist Philosophy, Philosophy of Mind

Areas of Competence: Philosophy of Psychology, Applied Ethics, Ethics & Social Philosophy

EMPLOYMENT

Nancy Schaenen Endowed Visiting Scholar of Ethics, The Prindle Institute for Ethics, DePauw University
(beginning August 2017)

Postdoctoral Associate, Department of Linguistics and Philosophy, M.I.T. (2016-2017)

EDUCATION

August 2016

Ph.D. in Philosophy

Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dissertation: "Belief and Ameliorative Epistemology"

Committee: Susanna Siegel, Mark Richard, Susanna Rinard

May 2005

B.A., triple major in Philosophy, Linguistics, and Psychology

summa cum laude

Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana

UNDER REVIEW

'Evidentialism and Belief Polarization'

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

'In Favor of Epistemic Reasons for Action' to be presented at ConceptLab Core Seminar, University of Oslo, Norway, June 2017.

'Can Epistemic Virtues Help Combat Epistemologies of Ignorance?' presented at Epistemic Virtues and Epistemic Skills, Bled, Slovenia, June 2017

'Epistemic Oppression and Ameliorative Epistemology' presented at ConceptLab Core Seminar, University of Oslo, Norway, May 2017

‘What is Epistemic Oppression?’ presented at The Intersection of Epistemology and Philosophy of Mind, Bled, Slovenia, June 2015.

‘Evidential Rationality and Belief Polarization’ presented at Evidence, Reliability, and Group Epistemology Conference, Bled, Slovenia, June 2013.

REFEREED PRESENTATIONS

‘On Epistemic Oppression’ presented at the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy, Birmingham, USA, March 2017.

‘On Epistemic Oppression’ presented at Midwest Society for Women in Philosophy Conference, Centre College, USA, October 2016.

‘Epistemic Oppression and Ameliorative Epistemology’ presented at Ways of Knowing: Feminist Philosophy of Science and Epistemology, Society for Women in Philosophy, Dublin, Ireland, November 2015.

‘What is Epistemic Oppression?’ presented at the Philosophers’ Cocoon Philosophy Conference, University of Tampa, USA, November 2015.

‘What is Epistemic Oppression?’ presented at the Northern New England Philosophical Association Conference, Bates College, USA, September 2015.

‘Ameliorative Inquiry in Epistemology’ presented at Understanding Value Conference, University of Sheffield, UK, July 2015.

‘Epistemic Oppression and Ameliorative Epistemology’ presented at The Kentucky Philosophical Association Summer Workshop, Centre College, USA, July 2015.

‘Assessing Belief Polarization in an Evidentialist Framework’ presented at the Mississippi Philosophical Association Annual Meeting, Millsaps College, USA, April 2015.

**Awarded graduate student paper prize*

‘Assessing Belief Polarization in an Evidentialist Framework’ presented at Graduate Conference in Philosophy of Mind, Language, and Cognitive Science, University of Western Ontario, Canada, May 2014.

‘Belief Polarization, Re-Visited’ presented at The Senses Conference, CUNY Graduate Center, USA, April 2014.

‘Belief Polarization, Re-Visited’ presented at Northwestern/Notre Dame Epistemology Conference, Northwestern University, USA, April 2014.

Presentations at Harvard Metaphysics and Epistemology Workshop.....

‘Epistemic Oppression and Ameliorative Epistemology’, November 2015.

- ‘Hermeneutic Injustice and Justification’**, February 2015.
- ‘Epistemic Communism and Ameliorative Epistemology’**, October 2014.
- ‘How to Believe What the Evidence Supports’**, March 2014.
- ‘What is Evidential Irrationality?’**, October 2013.
- ‘Evidential Rationality and Belief Polarization’**, March 2013.
- ‘Epistemic Value Theory and Normative Ethics’**, November 2012.
- ‘Thin Slicing and Rational Action’**, April 2012.
- ‘On The Epistemology of Thin Slicing’**, November 2011.
- ‘Epistemological Disjunctivism and Skepticism’**, April 2011.

CONFERENCE RESPONSES

Respondent to Amy Flowerree’s ‘Parity of Belief and Intention’ Athena in Action Workshop, Princeton University, USA, August 2016.

Respondent to Jason Chen’s ‘The Core of Oppression’ Philosophers’ Cocoon Annual Conference, University of Tampa, USA, November 2015.

Respondent to Enoch Lambert’s ‘Higher-Order Intentionality and Animal Mindreading: Against a Dennettian Conjecture’ Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology Annual Conference, New Orleans, USA, April 2015.

Respondent to Thiemo Breyer’s ‘Visibility, Embodiment, and Empathy’ The Mahindra Humanities Center/Mellon Violence and Non-Violence Seminar, Cambridge, USA, October 2014.

Respondent to Chase Wrenn’s ‘Defending Epistemic Teleology’ Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology Annual Conference, Charleston, USA, February 2014.

Respondent to Nalini Ambady’s ‘Social Judgments from Thin Slices of Behavior’ The Network for Sensory Research Workshop on Perceptual Learning and Perceptual Recognition, University of Toronto, Canada, May 2012.

SUMMER SEMINARS

Neuroscience Bootcamp, University of Pennsylvania, USA, July 2012.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

University of Oslo, ConceptLab, Collaborative Visiting Fellowship	Summer 2017
Harvard University Dissertation Completion Fellowship	2015-2016
Graduate Student Paper Prize (<i>awarded by Mississippi Philosophical Association</i>)	2015

Departmental Martin Prize Fellowship (<i>Harvard departmental merit fellowship</i>)	2014-2015
Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Term Time Research Award	Fall 2013
Certificate of Distinction in Teaching (for <i>The Romance: From Jane Austen to Chick Lit</i>)	Fall 2012
Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Pre-Dissertation Summer Fellowship	2012
Certificate of Distinction in Teaching (for <i>Rationality and The Emotions</i>)	Spring 2012
Certificate of Distinction in Teaching (for <i>Philosophy of Mind</i>)	Fall 2011
Graduate Prize Fellowship, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences	Fall 2008
Princeton in Asia Fellowship for work in Vietnam	2006-2007

Undergraduate:

The Anne Butler Hess Prize in Philosophy (*for best graduate in philosophy*) (2005); Phi Beta Kappa (2005); The Isoline Rodd and John Smith Kendall Award for Leadership and Service (2005); Who's Who Among American College Students (2005); Mortar Board Honor Society (2005); Gundaker Foundation Academic Merit Scholarship (2004); National Residence Hall Honorary (2003); Department of Student Life Emerging Student Leader Award (2003); Golden Key Honor Society, Outstanding Initiate Scholarship (2003); Phi Eta Sigma (2002); Alpha Lambda Delta (2002); Tulane Academic Merit Scholarship (2001-2005); College and National Dean's Lists (2001-2005)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

As Instructor:

How to Live: Moral Issues in Public and Private <i>DePauw University</i>	Fall 2017
Minds and Machines <i>M.I.T.</i>	Spring 2017
Theory of Knowledge <i>M.I.T.</i>	Fall 2016
Introduction to Feminisms <i>Boston College; Womens, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program</i>	Spring 2014
Colloquium: Teaching Women's Studies <i>Boston College; Womens, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program</i>	Spring 2014
Social Epistemology <i>Harvard University</i>	Spring 2014
Pedagogy: Instructional Styles in Philosophy <i>Co-taught with Bernhard Nickel at Harvard University</i>	2013-2014
Rationality and The Emotions <i>Harvard University</i>	Spring 2012

As Teaching Assistant at Harvard University:

The Romance: From Jane Austen to Chick Lit , T.A. for Linda Schlossberg <i>* Taught in Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality</i>	Fall 2012
Philosophy of Mind , T.A. for Farid Marsour	Fall 2011
Metaethics , T.A. for Selim Berker	Fall 2011
Issues in Ethics , T.A. for Thomas Scanlon <i>Head Teaching Fellow</i>	Spring 2011
Moral Reasoning About Social Protest , T.A. for Susanna Siegel <i>Head Teaching Fellow</i>	Fall 2010

Advising Experience at Harvard University:

Departmental Teaching Fellow <i>* Provided individual advising for all teaching assistants in philosophy</i>	Spring 2014
Junior Year Tutorial in Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality <i>* One-on-one tutor for junior year research paper, in preparation for senior thesis</i>	Spring 2013
Assistant Head Tutor <i>* Academic advisor to undergraduate philosophy concentrators</i>	2012-2013

Language Teaching (As Instructor):

English for Social Science Research <i>An Giang University (Long Xuyên, Vietnam)</i>	2007-2008
Intermediate English Speaking and Listening Skills <i>Kiên Giang Community College (Rạch Giá, Vietnam)</i>	2006-2007
Introductory English Speaking and Listening Skills <i>Kiên Giang Community College (Rạch Giá, Vietnam)</i>	2006-2007
Intermediate English Grammar and Composition <i>Kiên Giang Community College (Rạch Giá, Vietnam)</i>	2006-2007
English for Reading and Research <i>Wuhan University of Technology (Wuhan, China)</i>	Summer 2006
Advanced English Grammar and Composition <i>MET Family Literacy Program (Providence, RI)</i>	Fall 2005

GRADUATE COURSEWORK

(*not taken for credit)

Moral and Political Philosophy:

Foundations of Justice*	Amartya Sen and Eric Nelson, Fall 2013
Structural Explanation in Social Science*	Sally Haslanger, Spring 2012
Punishment and Social Justice*	T.M. Scanlon and Tommie Shelby, Fall 2011
First Year Colloquium in Ethics	Douglas Lavin, Spring 2009
Feminist Political Philosophy	Sally Haslanger and Rae Langton, Spring 2009
Ethics and Action	Douglas Lavin and Matthew Boyle, Fall 2008

Metaphysics and Epistemology:

Metaphysical Grounding*	Selim Berker, Spring 2013
Topics in Philosophy of Mind*	Alex Byrne and Agustín Rayo, Fall 2012
Epistemic Normativity*	Selim Berker, Spring 2011
Philosophy of Language*	Mark Richard, Spring 2011
Explanatory Structure*	Ned Hall, Fall 2010
Skepticism and Epistemic Levels*	Roger White, Spring 2010
Philosophy of Perception*	Susanna Siegel, Spring 2010
Philosophy of Biology	Peter Godfrey-Smith, Fall 2009
Epistemology*	Selim Berker, Spring 2009
First Year Colloquium on Caution	Ned Hall and Alison Simmons, Fall 2008

History of Philosophy:

Hegel and Kant	Matthew Boyle, Spring 2010
The Rationalists	Jeffrey McDonough, Fall 2009
Aristotle on Justice	Gisela Striker, Spring 2009

Other:

Pedagogy: Instructional Styles in Philosophy	Ned Hall and Alison Simmons, 2010-2011
Topics in Intersubjectivity	Richard Moran and Douglas Lavin, Spring 2009
Deductive Logic	Warren Goldfarb, Fall 2008

Psychology:

Computational Models and Cognitive Development	Elizabeth Spelke and Joshua Tenenbaum, Fall 2008
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ACADEMIC SERVICE

Harvard-M.I.T. Minorities and Philosophy (MAP) Chapter	2013-2016
Graduate Representative to the Faculty (two terms)	2014-2015 & 2011-2012
Graduate-Faculty Curriculum Reform Committee	2014

Research Assistantships: for Stanley Cavell (2014); for Mark Richard (2014); for Christine Korsgaard (2012)	2012-2014
Assistant Head Tutor, Harvard Department of Philosophy	2012-2013
Metaphysics and Epistemology Dissertation Workshop Coordinator	2011-2012
Student Coordinator for Philosophy and Classics Department Conference	2011
Philosophy Department Representative to the Graduate Student Council	2009-2010
Student Coordinator for Philosophy of Perception Conference (twice)	2008, 2009
Copy Editor for <i>Noûs</i> and <i>Philosophy and Phenomenological Research</i>	2005

LANGUAGES

Reading proficiency in French and Spanish

REFERENCES

Susanna Siegel
Harvard University
ssiegel@fas.harvard.edu

Mark Richard
Harvard University
richard4@fas.harvard.edu

Susanna Rinard
Harvard University
susannarinard@fas.harvard.edu

Teaching Reference:
Sharlene Hesse-Biber
Boston College
hesse@bc.edu