

LAUREN ASHWELL

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Areas of Specialization: Metaphysics, Epistemology, Feminism, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Language

Area of Teaching Competence: Logic

Employment

Associate Professor of Philosophy, Bates College, 2015 – current

Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Bates College, 2009 – 2015

Education

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, PhD in Philosophy, Thesis: *Desires and Dispositions*, 2009

University of Auckland, MA, Philosophy, first class honors, Thesis: *Conceivability and Modal Error*, 2003

University of Auckland, BA, Philosophy, first class honors, Thesis: *Hybrid Modal Interval Logics*, 2002

University of Auckland, BSc, Mathematics, 2001

Publications

Articles

‘Possibilities of Misidentification,’ *Philosophy, Psychiatry, & Psychology*, 25(3): 161-164, 2018

‘Conflicts of Desire: Dispositions and the Metaphysics of Mind,’ in *Causal Powers*, ed. by Jonathan Jacobs, Oxford University Press, 167-176, 2017

‘Introspection and the Nature of Desire,’ for *The Nature of Desire*, ed. by Julien Deonna and Federico Lauria, Oxford University Press, 2017

‘Gendered Slurs,’ *Social Theory and Practice*, 42(2): 228-239, 2016

‘The Metaphysics of Desire and Dispositions,’ *Philosophy Compass*, 9(7): 469-477, 2014

‘Deep, Dark, . . . or Transparent? Knowing Our Desires,’ *Philosophical Studies*, 165(1): 245-256, 2013

‘Slaves to Fashion,’ co-authored with Rae Langton, in *Fashion – Philosophy for Everyone: Thinking with Style*, ed. by Jeanette Kennett and Jessica Wolfendale, Chapter 9: 135-150, Wiley-Blackwell, 2011

‘Superficial Dispositionalism,’ *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, 88(4): 635-653, 2010

Book Reviews

Review of Michael Slote’s *A Sentimentalist Theory of Mind*, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, 2014

Review of Jordi Fernández’s *Transparent Minds: A Study of Self-Knowledge*, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*, 2013

‘Building the Physical World out of Powerful Properties,’ review of Alexander Bird’s *Nature’s Metaphysics: Laws and Properties*, in *Protosociology: An International Journal and Interdisciplinary Project*, 2012

Other Publications/Media

Interview on *Tatter* podcast on Gendered Slurs, released Nov 26, 2018, <https://tatter.fireside.fm/30>

Contribution to 'Artworld Roundtable: Objectionable Lyrics' published Oct 10, 2018

<https://aestheticsforbirds.com/2018/10/10/artworld-roundtable-objectionable-lyrics/>

'Dispositions and Ant-idotes,' published July 14, 2017

<https://dailyant.com/2017/07/14/philosophy-phriday-dispositions-and-ant-idotes/>

Contribution to 'Should Prostitution be Legalized?' published Sept 1, 2016

<https://wallethub.com/blog/should-prostitution-be-legal/24211/#>

'The Metaphysics of Muppets,' for *Jim Henson and Philosophy*, ed. by Timothy M. Dale and Joseph J. Foy, Rowman and Littlefield, 2015

'I Saw Memories of You: Can Dreamfasting Teach Us About Introspection?' for *Jim Henson and Philosophy*, ed. by Timothy M. Dale and Joseph J. Foy, Rowman and Littlefield, 2015

Recent Awards

Bates Faculty Development Grant, 2019

Frederick Burkhardt ACLS Fellowship, 2016-17, \$80,000

Phillips Faculty Fellowship, 2016–17, \$95,828 (full amount not taken up)

National Endowment for the Humanities, summer grant for NEH institute at Cornell, 2016, \$3300

Bates Faculty Development Grant, 2015

Bates Faculty Development Grant, 2014

Whiting Foundation Teaching Fellowship, 2012–13

Northern Institute of Philosophy, Aberdeen, Visiting Fellowship (Self-Knowledge Project), 2012

Selected Presentations

'Gendered Slurs and the Assumption of Neutrality'

Oppressive Speech, Societies, and Norms Conference, ZAS Berlin (virtual), March 2021

'Slur Reclamation'

Investigating Ideas, Bates College (with Susan Stark), October 2020

'You Ought Not Say That: Slurs and Prohibitions'

MITing of the Minds, MIT January 2020

Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology (virtual), December 2020

'Varieties of Derogation'

University of Maine, Orono 2019

Northern New England Philosophical Association Conference, 2019

'What Weather-Watcher Want'

Society for Philosophy and Psychology Conference, Cincinnati 2019

'I don't think you know what you want'

NEH seminar, Cornell July 2016

Feminist Utopias Conference, Iceland March 2017

Australasian Association of Philosophy, Wellington July 2018

Comments on Regina Rini's 'How to Take Offense: The Pragmatics of Microaggression' and Alan Hazlett's 'Why Offense is Not an Emotion'
American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Conference, Seattle April 2017

'Slurs as Social Controls'
Harvard Philosophy Department, May 2017
Australasian Association of Philosophy Conference, July 2017

Comments on Lynne Tirrell's 'Toxic Speech', Language and Power Workshop, MIT, January 2016

Comments on Jared Peterson's 'A Puzzle About Desire'
American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Conference, San Francisco 2016

'Possibilities of Misidentification'
Northern New England Philosophical Association, ME 2015

'Agency and the Power of Parts'
Powers, Human Agency, and Emergence Workshop, Durham UK 2015

'Gendered Slurs'
Dominating Speech Conference, CT 2014
University of Maine Orono, ME 2015
Alabama Philosophical Society Conference, FL 2015

Comments on Cassie Herbert's 'Slurs & Sluts: The Performative Structure of Reclamation Projects'
Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology, SC 2014

'Introspection and the Nature of Desire'
Philosophy Mountain Workshop, WY 2014

'Introspecting Desire Strength'
Australasian Association of Philosophy Conference, Brisbane, Australia 2013
Southern Methodist University, TX 2013

'Introspecting Motivation'
Dispositions and Mind Conference, Kyung Hee University, Seoul, Korea 2012
Northern Institute of Philosophy, Aberdeen, UK 2012

'Clarifying Transparency in Self-Knowledge'
Northern Institute of Philosophy, Aberdeen, UK 2012

'Deep, Dark, ... Or Transparent? Knowing Our Desires'
Northwest Philosophy Conference, Willamette University, OR 2010
University of New Hampshire, NH 2010

Comments on Ralf Bader's 'Being F Intrinsically and Extrinsically'
APA Pacific Division, San Francisco 2010

'Superficial Dispositionalism'
University of Bristol, United Kingdom 2008

'Is all Wrong-Doing Self-Objectification?'
United Kingdom Kant Society Graduate Conference, University of Manchester, United Kingdom 2008
Australasian Association of Philosophy, Sydney, Australia 2005
University of Auckland, New Zealand 2005
University of Waikato, New Zealand 2005
Workshop on Gender and Philosophy, MIT 2005

‘Masking Desire – and perhaps finking it too’

Australasian Association of Philosophy, Armidale, Australia 2007

University of Auckland, New Zealand 2007

Reply to Alex Byrne’s ‘Possibility and Imagination’

MITing of the Minds conference, MIT 2007

‘Admitting Defeat: Defeasible Justification’

Australasian Association of Philosophy, NZ division, Dunedin, New Zealand 2005

‘Conception by Omission’

MITing of the Minds conference, MIT 2005

‘Aristotelian Ends’

University of Auckland, New Zealand 2004

‘Metaphysical Mix-ups’

Philosophy Society, Australian National University, Research School of Social Sciences, Australia 2002

Australasian Association of Philosophy, Christchurch, New Zealand 2002

Teaching

Bates College

Language and Power (senior seminar, new course), 2022

Feminist Epistemology (senior seminar, new course), 2019, 2021

Possibility, Proofs, and Paradox (short-term, new course), 2019, 2022

Possibility, Probability, and Proofs (new course) 2016

Self-Knowledge (senior seminar, new course), 2015, 2017, 2020

Advanced Logic (senior seminar, new course), 2011

Dispositions (senior seminar, new course), 2010, 2013

Possibility, Probability, and Proofs (new course), 2016

Feminist Philosophy, 2010, 2012, 2015, 2018, 2020

Introduction to Logic, 2010 – 2022

Metaphysics, 2011, 2015, 2019

Philosophy of Mind, 2009

Theory of Knowledge, 2009, 2010, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2021

Thinking and Feeling (first-year seminar, new course), 2014, 2021

University of Auckland

Advanced Metalogic, 2005

Critical Thinking, 2003

Supervised Independent Studies (Bates College)

Philosophy of Mathematics and Logic, Sam Polak 2011

Metaphysical Structures in Nature, Felix Radford 2011

Senior Theses (Bates College)

Supervisor, Senior Honors Thesis,

Sophie Cohen 2022 (philosophy, gendered slurs and metaphor)

Daniel Lambright 2011 (philosophy, determinism and chance)

Supervisor, Senior Thesis,

David Bilbrey 2022 (philosophy, speaking for others and self-knowledge)

India Woolmington 2021 (philosophy, epistemic injustice and medical treatment)

Xingren Wang 2021 (philosophy, feminism and essentialism)

Christina Perrone 2020 (philosophy, trans identities and phenomenology)

Michael Williams 2020 (philosophy, moral indeterminism)

Yifan Ding 2020 (philosophy, phenomenology and perceptual learning)

Laura Daehler 2020 (philosophy, modal logic and God's existence)

Yara Abelhardy 2019 (philosophy, trauma and feminist epistemology)

Constantine Gregoire 2019 (philosophy, justifications for paternalism)

Nico Johnson 2019 (philosophy, levels of explanation in cognitive science)

Henry Simon 2016 (philosophy, morality and responsibility in *Groundhog's Day*)

Jack Stewart 2014 (philosophy, feminist epistemology and pragmatism)

Adam Rawlings 2010 (philosophy, heuristics)

Additional Invited Class Lectures

'Transparency Beyond Belief,' *Self Knowledge*, University of Kentucky, 2011

'Free Speech and Pornography,' *The Responsibilities of Public Action*, Harvard University, 2006

'Possible Worlds,' *Philosophical Logic*, University of Auckland, 2005

'The Measurement Problem and the Mind,' *Philosophy of Quantum Mechanics*, MIT, 2005

'The Knowledge Argument,' *Problems in Philosophy*, MIT, 2004

Teaching Assistant

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2004-2008

Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, 2006

University of Auckland, 2000-2003, 2005

Recent Professional Development

Linguistic Justice Conference, May 2021

Truth, Reconciliation, and Transformation Workshop, January 2021

Participation in CBB conference on remote teaching (3 days), 2020

Participation in Bates' May Conference on Teaching, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019

Participation in American Association of Philosophy Teachers (AAPT) Teaching and Learning Workshop, 2014

Participation in Mentoring Workshop for Women in Philosophy, 2013

Bates' Safe Space Program, 2012

Participation in Third International Congress on Tools for Teaching Logic, 2011

Service

Service to Bates College

Committee on Faculty Governance, current
Mellon Committee on Curricular Transformation, 2021-current
Search Committee, Digital and Computational Studies, 2020, 2021
Committee on Personnel for Physical Education, 2018-21
Accreditation committee, standard 4, 2018-19
Search committee for Philosophy 2018-19
Program committee for Digital and Computational Studies, 2015-22
Off-Campus Study Committee, 2015 – 19
Search Committee for Philosophy 2017-18
Admitted students ‘masterclass’ on the naturalistic fallacy
Chair of Digital and Computational Studies Program, 2015 – 16
Economics Department Review, 2015-16
Committee on Environmental Responsibility, 2014 – 16
Educational Policy Committee, 2014-15
Philosophy Departmental Review, 2014-15
Organizer of Work-in-Progress Speaker Series in Philosophy, 2013 – 16
Search Committee for Mellon Postdoc for Innovation in Teaching in Philosophy, 2013
Committee on Faculty Scholarship, 2011-14
First Year Seminar and Writing Committee, 2010-11
Search Committee for Writing Specialist in the Humanities, 2011
Organizer of Visiting Speaker on Feminism and Philosophy, Nancy Bauer, 2010
Mellon Philosophy and Psychology Workgroup and Visiting Speaker Series, Co-Organizer, 2009-10
Senior Honors Thesis Examiner,
 Erin Lyons 2021 (English, Macbeth and queer identities)
 Ernestine Whitaker 2020 (philosophy, epistemic injustice and the 2nd person)
 Jurgen Kritschgau 2016 (philosophy, representation and context)
 Molly Hereford 2011 (philosophy, personal identity)
 Mircea Lupu 2011 (philosophy, Heidegger on anxiety and death)
 Rachel DiStefano 2011 (psychology, alexithymia and memory)
 Madison Kilbride 2010 (philosophy, perception of speech)

Recent External Academic Service

American Philosophical Association Careers and Placement Committee (elected), 2019-current
American Philosophical Association APALive Committee, 2020-current
Co-Chair for Philosophy Program for Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology Conference, current
President of Northern New England Philosophical Association, 2015-16
Data collection for launch of Women of Philosophy Database, <http://www.womenofphilosophy.com/>
Reviewer for *American Philosophical Quarterly*

Reviewer for *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*
Reviewer for *British Journal for the Philosophy of Science*
Reviewer for *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*
Reviewer for *Dialectica*
Reviewer for *Ergo*
Reviewer for *Feminist Philosophical Quarterly*
Reviewer for *Hypatia*
Reviewer for *Mind*
Reviewer for *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*
Reviewer for *Philosophical Psychology*
Reviewer for *Philosophical Quarterly*
Reviewer for *Philosophical Studies*
Reviewer for *Thought: A Journal of Philosophy*

Membership

American Association of Philosophy, Eastern Division
Southern Society for Philosophy and Psychology

References

Alexander Bird, Alexander.Bird@bristol.ac.uk
University of Bristol, Department of Philosophy, 9 Woodland Rd, Bristol BS8 1TB, UK

Alex Byrne, abyrne@mit.edu
MIT Department of Philosophy, 77 Massachusetts Avenue, 32-D808, Cambridge MA 02139, USA

Richard Holton, rjh221@cam.ac.uk
Faculty of Philosophy, University of Cambridge, Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge CB3 9DA, UK

Rae Langton, rhl27@cam.ac.uk
Faculty of Philosophy, University of Cambridge, Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge CB3 9DA, UK

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