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ORCID 0000-0001-8988-5121

Education

Ph.D., Philosophy, September 2018, City University of New York, The Graduate Center

Thesis: The Syndrome of Romantic Love

Supervisor: Jesse Prinz

M.Phil., 2013, City University of New York, The Graduate Center

B.A., with Honors in Philosophy 2008, City University of New York, Baruch College

Areas of Specialization Moral Psychology, Ethics, Philosophy of Mind

Areas of Competence Value Theory, Personal Identity, Philosophy of Sex and Gender

Research Interests

Emotions, Philosophy of Love and Sex, Implicit Biases, Cognitive Science, Metaethics

Academic and Professional Positions held

Lecturer in Philosophy, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 2019 – present

Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow, Utah State University, Logan, UT 2018-2019

Adjunct Lecturer in Philosophy, Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ 2015-2018

Graduate B Teaching Fellowship, Hunter College, City University of New York, New York, N.Y. 2013-2014

Adjunct Lecturer in Philosophy, Hunter College, City University of New York, New York, N.Y. 2011-2013

Adjunct Lecturer in Philosophy, Baruch College, City University of New York, New York, N.Y. 2008–2015

Courses taught

Independent Study with an MA student – Fall 2020

Project: Approaching Racism through the Lens of Emotions

University of Florida

Moral Psychology Fall 2020

University of Florida 1 section

Philosophy of Love and Sex Fall 2010 – Summer 2014, 2019 –

University of Florida 2 section

Baruch College 6 sections

Hunter College 2 sections

Moral Philosophy Fall 2019 – Spring 2020

University of Florida 2 sections

Contemporary Moral Issues Online – Spring 2020

University of Florida 1 section

Introduction to Philosophy 2008 – present

University of Florida 3 sections

Utah State University 3 sections

Montclair State University 12 sections

Baruch College 29 sections

Hunter College 1 section

Philosophy of Sex and Gender – Spring 2019

Utah State University 1 section

Environmental Ethics Fall 2018

Utah State University 2 sections

Introduction to Ethics Online – Summer 2016

Montclair State University 1 section

Introduction to Ethics Fall 2009 – Fall 2015

Baruch College 4 sections

Hunter College 5 sections

Ethics and Society Fall 2013 – Spring 2014
Hunter College 2 sections

Medieval Philosophy in Christian, Jewish and Muslim Tradition Spring 2012
Baruch College 1 section

Academic Publications

Forthcoming. "The Amorality of Romantic Love." In R. Fedock, M. Kühler, and R. Rosenhagen (Eds.), *Love, Justice, Autonomy*. New York: Routledge.

2018. "The erotic as a value." (in French) with Ronald de Sousa. In J. Deonna, & E. Tieffenbach (Eds.), *A Small Treatise on Values (Petit Traité des Valeurs)* (pp. 132-139). Paris: Editions d'Ithaque

2017. "Is love an emotion?" with Jesse Prinz. In C. Grau & A. Smuts (Eds) *The Oxford Handbook Of Philosophy Of Love*. New York & Oxford: Oxford University Press

In progress (available upon request)

"Romantic Love: Universality, Adaptation, Innateness"

"The Rationality of Jealousy"

"The Internal Structure of Sentiments"

"On Love and Hate"

Books

Under Contract. *The Moral Psychology of Love*, co-edited with Berit Brogaard as part of the *Moral Psychology of Emotions* series by Mark Alfano, Rowman & Littlefield

Book reviews

The Routledge Handbook of Love in Philosophy. (2019). A. M. Martin (Ed.) for *Metapsychology*

<https://metapsychology.net/index.php/book-review/the-routledge-handbook-of-love-in-philosophy/>

Presentations

Conference Presentations

"Jealous Much? How Relationship Frameworks Inform the Fittingness of Romantic Jealousy" as part of the 8th Consortium of European Research on Emotion (CERE), Universidad de Granada. Granada, Spain. June 2020 – Postponed due to Covid-19 Pandemic

"Reason and Passion: Romantic Love and the Limits of Morality" as part of the 8th Consortium of European Research on Emotion (CERE), Universidad de Granada. Granada, Spain. June 2020 – Postponed due to Covid-19 Pandemic

"Love, Jealousy, and Rationality" as part of the Florida Philosophical Association, University of Florida. Gainesville, FL. November 2019

"The Rationality of Jealousy" as part of the Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Jealousy Symposium at the International Society for Research on Emotion, University of Amsterdam. Amsterdam, the Netherlands. July 2019

"When is Jealousy Appropriate?" for the Intermountain Conference, University of Utah. Salt Lake City, UT. November 2018

"Staring down the green-eyed monster: romantic jealousy and ideology" as part of the Meta-Ethics and Moral Psychology Colloquium at the Canadian Philosophical Association. Université du Québec à Montréal. Montreal, Canada. June 2018

"Expressions of Jealousy in Infants and Adults" for the Emotions and Expressions Workshop by the "Expression, Communication, and the Origins of Meaning" (ECOM) Research Group of the University of Connecticut. Storrs, CT. April 2018

"Romantic Love: Universality, Innateness, and Adaptation" for Cognitio, Young Researchers Conference in Cognitive Science. Université du Québec à Montréal. Montreal, Canada. June 2017

"Why Love is Not a Moral Emotion" for the Society of Philosophy of Sex and Love at the American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting, San Francisco, CA. April 2016

"The Syndrome of Romantic Love" for the colloquium series at the Philosophy department of Montclair State University. Montclair, NJ. February 2016

"The Arationality of Romantic Love" as part of the Symposium on Love at the *International Society for Research on Emotion*, University of Geneva. Geneva, Switzerland. July 2015

"Love and Irreplaceability" for the New York Society for Women in Philosophy. New York, NY. November 2013

Invited Presentations

"Emotions and Reasons" commentary on "Propelled" by Andreas Elpidorou for the Society for Philosophy of Emotion, American Philosophical Association Eastern Division Meeting, New York, NY. January 2021

"The (Ir)rationality of Implicit Biases" for the Department of Philosophy and Religion, University of Tampa. Tampa, FL. November 2019

"Is Love Gendered?" for the Department of Philosophy, Oberlin College. Oberlin, OH. March 2019

"Moral Emotions and Romantic Love" for the Department of Philosophy, University of Florida. Gainesville, FL. March 2019

"Implicit Biases and Rationality" for the department of Languages, Philosophy, and Communication Studies, Utah State University. Logan, UT. November 2018

"Tribalism in American Politics" as part of the "Politically (ir)rational Animals" panel discussion, Utah State University. Logan, UT. November 2018

"Polyamory: A Philosophical Analysis" guest lecture for the graduating philosophy seniors, Montclair State University. Montclair, NJ. April 2018

"The Comedy and Tragedy of Love" for the *Philosophy for Lunch* Series at Montclair State University. Montclair, NJ. February 2018

"Philosophy of Love" for the Introduction to Philosophy Undergraduate Honors class, Mercy College. New York, NY. April 2016

"Polyamory" guest lecture for the Ethics of Personal Relations undergraduate course, University of Toronto. Toronto, Canada. March 2015

Invited commenter on "Love and Attachment: The Value of Self-Interestedness in Loving Relationships" by Monique Wonderly (University of California–Riverside) APA the Pacific Division 88th Meeting. San Diego, CA. April 2014

"Kant's Sex Problem and the Role of Consent in Legitimizing Sexual Relations" City University of New York, Hunter College. New York. December 2010

Non-Academic Publications & Talks

"What is erotic?", "Reconstructing sexual orientation: Should polyamory count as a sexual orientation?", and "Objections to polyamory: How to respond" with Ronald de Sousa. *RelateCon: Empowering Relationship Diversity*. Boise, ID. March 2019

"What Can Polyamory Tell Us about Jealousy?" as part of the Valentine's Day Special. *Daily Nous*. February 2018
<http://dailynous.com/2018/02/14/valentines-day-special-philosophers-on-love-relationships-jealousy-autonomy-respect-affairs-desire/#PISMENNY>

"Hung-Over, -Up", Dilemma Series. *The Night of Philosophy and Ideas*. Brooklyn, NY. January 2018
<https://www.nightofphilosophyandideas.com/schedule#t1000pm>

"Fine-tuning passion: When is love not an emotion?" as part of the HowTheLightGetsIn festival. *The Institute of Art and Ideas*. June 2017
<https://iainews.iai.tv/articles/fine-tuning-passion-auid-837>

"Love and the Self", *the Owl Podcast* with Ian Olasov, Ask A Philosopher series. Episode 7. July 2017
<https://www.mixcloud.com/BKPP/episode-7-ask-a-philosopher-w-arina-pismenny-love-and-the-self/>

APA Member Interview (pilot) for the *APA Blog* with Skye Cleary. January 2016
<http://blog.apaonline.org/2016/01/29/apa-member-interview-arina-pismenny/>

Research Experience and Training

Participant in the experimental philosophy lab. Project: *The Variability of Jealousy With Respect To Social Norms*. Supervisor: Jesse Prinz. City University of New York, The Graduate Center. 2017.

Participant in International Summer School in Affective Sciences: *Emotion Meets Action*. Swiss Center for Affective Sciences, University of Geneva. July 2014

Awards and Honors

Conference Travel Grant, Utah State University, March 2019

Conference Travel Grant, City University of New York, The Graduate Center, April 2016

Dissertation Year Fellowship, City University of New York, The Graduate Center, 2015-16

Doctoral Student Research Grant, City University of New York, The Graduate Center, 2015

Conference Travel Grant, City University of New York, The Graduate Center, April 2014

Graduate B Teaching Fellowship, City University of New York, Hunter College, 2013-14

Graduate Center Fellowship, City University of New York, The Graduate Center, 2009-2010

Honors in Philosophy, City University of New York, Baruch College, 2008

Excellence Award in Philosophy, City University of New York, Baruch College, 2008

Textbook Content and Aid Development

Reviewer of the *Introduction to Moral Philosophy* by Jonathan Wolff for the W.W. Norton and Company, June 2016

Book Endorsements

The Philosophy of Sex: Contemporary Readings edited by professors Alan Soble, Raja Halwani, Jacob Held, and Sarah Hoffman. 7th edition. Rowman & Littlefield. 2017

Academic and Professional Service

- Diversity and Inclusion Committee member since 2020, Philosophy Department, University of Florida
- Israel Science Foundation research grant proposal reviewer, 2020
- Undergraduate Committee member since 2019, Philosophy Department, University of Florida
- United Faculty of Florida member since 2019
- Association for Academic Women at the University of Florida member since 2019
- Synthese* journal blind reviewer, 2019
- Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Jealousy Symposium co-organizer at the *International Society for Research on Emotion*, University of Amsterdam Amsterdam, the Netherlands. July 2019
- The Monist* journal blind reviewer, 2019
- SWIP chapter co-organizer, Utah State University, 2018-2019
- Ethics Bowl Judge, Westminster College, 2018
- Ethics Bowl Teams Coach, Utah State University, 2018
- Motivation and Emotion* journal blind reviewer, 2018
- Canadian Philosophical Association member since 2018
- Placement Committee member, Philosophy Program, City University of New York, the Graduate Center, 2016-2017
- International Society for Research on Emotion member since 2014
- American Philosophical Association member since 2014
- Student Steering Committee member, Philosophy Program, City University of New York, The Graduate Center, 2010-2012
- 13th Annual Student Philosophy Conference organizer, City University of New York, the Graduate Center, April 16 –17, 2010
- Elections Committee member, Philosophy Program, City University of New York, the Graduate Center, 2010-2012
- Library Committee member, Philosophy Program, City University of New York, the Graduate Center, 2010-2012
- Student Philosophy Club president, City University of New York, Baruch College, 2006-2007

References

- Professor Jesse Prinz jesse@subcortex.com, (212) 817-8615
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- Professor John Greenwood jgreenwood@gc.cuny.edu, (212) 817-8615

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Professor Berit Brogaard brogaardb@gmail.com, (305) 284-4757

Department of Philosophy, University of Miami, 1252 Memorial Drive, Ashe Bldg., Room 712, Coral Gables, FL 33124 USA

Professor Noel Carroll knollcarroll@gmail.com, (212) 817-8615

Philosophy Program, City University of New York, The Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10016 USA

Professor Tiger Roholt tiger.roholt@montclair.edu, (973) 655-7417

Department of Philosophy, Montclair State University, 1 Normal Avenue, Conrad J. Schmitt Hall, Room 208, Montclair, NJ 07043 USA

Professor Charlie Huenemann charlie.huenemann@usu.edu, (435) 797-0254

Department of Languages, Philosophy, and Communication Studies, Utah State University, Old Main, Room 208, Logan, UT 84322 USA

Professor John Palmer palmerj@ufl.edu, (352) 273-1815

Department of Philosophy, University of Florida 330 Griffin-Floyd Hall, Gainesville, FL 32611-8545

Dissertation Abstract

What kind of phenomenon is romantic love? Many philosophers, psychologists, and ordinary folk think it is an emotion. I challenge this assumption and argue instead that romantic love is best characterized as a syndrome – a pattern comprised of different kinds of mental states and behaviors that tend to co-occur. An examination of major emotion theories in philosophy and psychology demonstrates that romantic love does not fit into any of them. Likewise, the commonly endorsed but increasingly controversial categories of basic and nonbasic emotions do not account for romantic love. While both culture and evolution have shaped the phenomenon of romantic love, the dominant evolutionary story about romantic love does not stand up to scrutiny; neither is romantic love simply a social construction. The norms of rationality we are accustomed to apply to standard emotions also fail to apply to it. This lends further support to the thesis that romantic love is not an emotion. The category of sentiments comes close to adequately capturing the nature of romantic love but still falls short in several crucial ways. Because romantic love is not intrinsically rational, moral, or prudent, the usual normative assumptions such as sexual and emotional exclusiveness made about it should be re-examined.