

# Helen L. Daly

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Colorado College  
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**Areas of Specialization:** Metaphysics, Philosophy of Language

**Areas of Competence:** Philosophy of Sex and Gender, Philosophy of Mind, Early Modern Philosophy, Philosophy of Religion, Logic, Ancient Ethics, and Applied Ethics

## Education

Ph.D., Philosophy, The University of Arizona, 2011  
Dissertation: *Vagueness and Borderline Cases*  
Advisors: Terry Horgan and Shaughan Lavine

B.A., Philosophy, The University of Akron, 2002  
Summa cum Laude; University Honors Scholar

B.A., English, concentration in Linguistics, The University of Akron, 2002  
Summa cum Laude; University Honors Scholar

## Publications

“Love and Death” (2018) In *Heaven and Philosophy*. Edited by S. Cushing. Lexington Books.

“Modeling Sex/Gender” (2017) *Think: Philosophy for Everyone*. 46 (16): 79-92.

“Sex, Vagueness, and the Olympics” (2015) *Hypatia* 30 (4): 708-724.

“Mental Causation” (2009) with Cei Maslen and Terry Horgan. In *The Oxford Handbook of Causation*. Edited by H. Beebe, C. Hitchcock, and P. Menzies. Oxford.

“Jaegwon Kim” (2009) with Terry Horgan. In *A Companion to Metaphysics*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Edited by J. Kim, E. Sosa and G. Rosenkrantz. Blackwell.

## Other Papers Available on Request

“Drawing a Line in the Sand: A Pragmatic Theory of Vagueness”

“On Insults”

## **Presentations**

### **“On Insults”**

Oct. 2016, Mountain Plains Philosophy Conference, UCCS, Colorado Springs, CO

Nov. 2016, Colloquium Series at Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, IL

Dec. 2016, Colloquium Series at Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO

### **“How to Be Insulting: A philosophical exploration”**

Aug. 2016, Fall Conference, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO

### **“Silently Insulting”**

Nov. 2015, ECOM Workshop, Storrs, CT

### **“Modeling Sex/Gender”**

Aug. 2015, RoME poster session, Boulder, CO

Mar. 2016, Pacific APA, San Francisco, CA

Nov. 2016, Master Class at Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, IL

### **“The Many Strands of Gender”**

Dec. 2014, Feminist and Gender Studies lunch series at Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO

### **“Sex, Vagueness, and the Olympics”**

April 2013, Springs Discussion Group (workshop), Colorado Springs, CO

Sept. 2013, Faculty Lunch series at Colorado College

Sept. 2013, Pittsburgh Area Philosophy Colloquium, Pittsburgh, PA

Feb. 2014, Central APA, Chicago, IL

### **“Conversational Vagueness”**

Sept. 2012, Pittsburgh Area Philosophy Colloquium (workshop), Pittsburgh, PA

### **“The Sorites Paradox and Borderline Cases”**

Dec. 2011, Springs Discussion Group (workshop), Colorado Springs, CO

Feb. 2012, Central APA, Chicago, IL

### **“Drawing a Line in the Sand: How to reason with vague terms”**

Nov. 2010, for the University of Arizona Undergraduate Philosophy Club, Tucson, AZ

Dec. 2010, for the University of Arizona Colloquium Series, Tucson, AZ

Feb. 2011, for the Colorado College Colloquium Series

Sept. 2012, for the University of Colorado, Denver Colloquium Series

### **Comments on “Must Robots Be Consequentialists?” by R. Jenkins and D. Purves**

Aug. 2015, RoME, Boulder, CO

### **Comments on “Plurality and Parity: Composition versus Constitution” by R. Kurtz**

Feb. 2013, Central APA, New Orleans, LA

Comments on “Compositional Nihilism, Intuitions, and the Problem of Self-Defeat” by H. Kantin  
Oct. 2013, Mountain Plains Philosophy Conference, Colorado Springs, CO

Comments on “Compositional Nihilism and the Puzzles of Coincidence” by H. Kantin  
Oct. 2011, Mountain Plains Philosophy Conference, Denver, CO

## Current Research

I am currently working on three major research projects. First, I am completing work on my pragmatic theory of vagueness. I argue that vagueness unavoidably involves boundarylessness, but that revocable boundaries can be drawn in any given conversational context, thus giving us a simple way to dodge the sorites paradox in practice. Second, I am developing a way of doing metaphysics that avoids the inflexibility of strict realism, but that does not deny that there are metaphysical facts. The case I use to illustrate this is my new model of gender, meant to replace the common, but unhelpful models that currently dominate public and academic discourses about gender. Briefly, I think that words like ‘male’ and ‘female’ are highly indeterminate and purpose-dependent, so that no single (or simple) conceptual analysis can get them right. If we treat the metaphysics of gender as “modeling,” we can capture its pragmatic aspect. Third, I am developing a general account of insults. My working definition is: to insult is to express a lack of due regard.

## Courses Taught

At Colorado College:

20 <sup>th</sup> Century Analytic Philosophy	Fall 2011, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18
Greek Philosophy (w/ R. Furtak)	Fall 2011
Greek Philosophy	Fall 2013, 14, 16
Greek Drama and Philosophy (w/ M. Dobson)	Spring 2016
Formal Logic	Spr. 2012, 13, 14, 17; Fall 15, 17
Metaphysics	Spring 2012, 13, 17; Fall 17
Philosophical Argument and Writing	Spring 2019
Philosophy and Science Fiction	Fall 2012, Spring 2019
Philosophy of Language	Spring 2014, Fall 17, Fall 18
Language and Meaning	Spring 2012
The Philosophy and Psychology of Concepts (w/ K. Holmes)	Spring 2016
Human and Computer Intelligence (w/ M. Whitehead)	Spring 2014
Senior Seminar (w/ R. Furtak, J. Lee, J. Riker)	Spring 2013, 14, 16, 17
Senior Colloquium Seminar (w/ M. Hourdequin, D. McEnerney)	2011-12, 12-13, 18-19

At the University of Arizona:

Early Modern Philosophy	Summer 2008
Philosophy of Religion	Fall 06, 09; Spr. 08, 09
Environmental Ethics	Spring 2006
Business Ethics	Summer 2005

Medical Ethics	Summer 2004
Introduction to Philosophy	Fall 2005
Mind, Matter and God	Spring 2010
Logic and Critical Thinking	Summer 2006, 07
Introduction to Symbolic Logic	Summer 2009
Introduction to Symbolic Logic, online-only format	Summer 2010

## **Service**

Colorado College Faculty Executive Committee, budget subcommittee, 2018-  
 Colorado College Faculty Executive Committee, governance subcommittee, 2016-17  
 Colorado College hiring committee for Chemistry/Biochemistry, 2016  
 Colorado College interview committee for new Director of Financial Aid, 2016  
 Colorado College faculty liaison to Admissions and Financial Aid, 2015-16  
 Colorado College Philosophy Department External Review Committee, 2014  
 Guest Lecturer for UCCS Freshman Seminar: "Numbers," Sept. 2014  
 Colorado College Curriculum Committee, 2013-14  
 Colorado College Faculty Scholarship Action Team, 2013-2015  
 Colorado College Minority Concerns Representative on the Math/CS hiring committee, 2013-14  
 Colorado College Budget Committee, 2012-13  
 Colorado College Philosophy Department Assessment Committee, 2012-13, 15-16