

EMMA D. VELEZ

Curriculum vitae

Department of Philosophy
The Pennsylvania State University
240 Sparks Building
University Park, PA 16802
email: eqv5073@psu.edu

EDUCATION:

- 2015-present Ph.D. Philosophy and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (dual-title),
The Pennsylvania State University (expected June 2020)
- 2015 M.A. Philosophy, SUNY Stony Brook University
- 2014 Decolonizing Knowledge and Power: Postcolonial Studies, Decolonial
Horizons with The Center of Study and Investigations for Global Dialogues,
Barcelona, Spain (Certificate)
- 2013 B.A. Political Science and Philosophy with minor in Economics (*magna cum
laude* with honors), Oklahoma City University

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION: social and political philosophy, feminist philosophy (esp. Latina/x feminisms), critical philosophy of race

AREAS OF COMPETENCE: critical social theory (esp. Frankfurt School), continental philosophy, Latinx philosophy

DISSERTATION:

Title:

"Learning from *Las Tres Madres*: A Decolonial Feminist Approach to Re-thinking the Self, Epistemology, and the Ethico-political"

Committee:

Eduardo Mendieta (co-chair), Nancy Tuana (co-chair), Kathryn Sophia Belle (formerly Kathryn Gines; departmental reader), Mariana Ortega (departmental reader), Melissa Wright (outside reader from department of Geography & WGSS)

Abstract:

My dissertation articulates what I term the "colonial contract" and demonstrates the contributions of decolonial feminism to social and political philosophy. I argue that the colonial imaginary of the colonial contract and its intersection with what Charles Mills and Carol Pateman respectively identify as the racial and sexual contracts have yet to be adequately theorized by social and political philosophers. I develop an account of the colonial contract from the standpoint of decolonial feminism emerging from the U.S. Latinx context in order to examine the simultaneous formation of the categories of gender and race through the processes of colonization and the colonality of power. I contend that dismantling the colonial contract requires decolonial imaginaries that open up alternative strategies for forging coalitional politics capable of tackling problems specific to marginalized and oppressed communities.

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS:

- 2019-2020 Andrew W. Mellon Dissertation Fellowship, The Pennsylvania State University
2018 Philosophy Graduate Prize for Excellence in Research, The Pennsylvania State University
2017 Honorable Mention, “Best Submission by a Graduate Student,” Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP)
2015- Bunton-Waller Graduate Award, The Pennsylvania State University
2015 Honorable Mention, Ford Foundation Pre-Doctoral Fellowship
2014 Turner Summer Research Grant, SUNY Stony Brook
2013-2015 W. Burghardt Turner Fellow, SUNY Stony Brook

PUBLICATIONS:

Refereed Articles

- 2019 Velez, Emma. “Decolonial Feminism at the Intersection: a critical reflection on the relationship between intersectionality and decolonial feminism,” *The Journal of Speculative Philosophy* 33(3): 390-406.

Essays

- 2019 Velez, Emma, Nancy Tuana. “Tango Dancing with María Lugones: Towards Decolonial Feminism” (editor introduction), *Critical Philosophy of Race*, “Towards Decolonial Feminisms” special issue (forthcoming).

Edited Projects

- 2019 “Toward Decolonial Feminisms,” co-edited with Nancy Tuana, *Critical Philosophy of Race*, special issue (forthcoming).
2020 “Toward Decolonial Feminisms: Tracing the Lineages of Decolonial Thinking through Latin American/Latinx Feminist Philosophy,” co-edited with Nancy Tuana, *Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy*, special issue 35(3).

Blog Contributions

- 2019 Velez, Emma. “Women in Philosophy: Why the Decolonial Imaginary is Important for Women in Philosophy,” *APA Blog: Women in Philosophy Series*, ed. Adriel Trott, January 16 <[link here](#)>.

Book Reviews

- 2016 Velez, Emma. Review of Edward S. Casey and Mary Watkins, *Up Against the Wall: Re-Imagining the U.S.-Mexico Border* (University of Texas Press, 2014), *APA Newsletter on Hispanic/Latino Issues in Philosophy*, 16:1 (Fall).

LECTURES & PRESENTATIONS:

Invited Talks

- 2018 “Why the decolonial imaginary is important for philosophy,” Elmira College Emerging Scholar Lecture Series | Elmira, NY, November 8.
- 2018 “Transforming *Llantos* into *Gritos*: Latina Feminism and the Decolonial Imaginary,” St. Mary’s University | San Antonio, TX, February 23.
- 2018 “Transforming *Llantos* into *Gritos*: Latina Feminism and the Decolonial Imaginary,” Southwestern University | Georgetown, TX, February 26.

Conference Presentations

- 2019 “The Colonial Contract: A Decolonial Feminist Critique,” The Roundtable on Latina/x Feminisms | State College, PA, *dates TBD*.
- 2019 “Towards a ‘Care-ful Geopolitics’ of *La Frontera* in the Era of Trump,” Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP), 58th Annual Meeting | Pittsburgh, PA, October 31-November 2.
- 2019 “La Llorona Demands Faithful Witnesses: The Importance of Memory Work for Forging Decolonized Subjectivities,” Diverse Lineages of Existentialism II—Critical Race, Feminist, and Continental Philosophy | Washington D.C., June 3-5.
- 2018 “The ‘intersectionality question’ and the ‘coloniality question’: a critical reflection on the relationship between intersectionality and decolonial feminism,” Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP), 57th Annual Meeting | State College, PA, October 20-22.
- 2018 “Decolonial Feminism at the Intersection,” The Roundtable on Latina/x Feminisms | State College, PA, September 7-8.
- 2018 “*Cuando aprendemos a escuchar*/When we learn to listen,” Toward Decolonial Feminisms: A Conference Inspired by the Work of María Lugones | State College, PA, May 11-13
- 2017 “Forked Tongues: A Decolonial Approach to Rethinking the Native Informant,” Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP), 56th Annual Meeting | Memphis, TN, October 19-21.

Honorable Mention, “Best Submission by a Graduate Student”

- 2017 “*La Malinche’s* Forked Tongue,” The Roundtable on Latina Feminism, John Carroll University | Cleveland, OH, May 5-6.

2017 “*En Estos Tiempos de La Llorona, An Ethics of Our Time,*” PhiloSOPHIA, Florida Atlantic University | Boca Raton, FL, April 31.

This version of this paper was also presented at the PhiloSOPHIA Society Meeting in conjunction with Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP), 56th Annual Meeting | Memphis, TN, October 19-21.

2016 “Habermas’s Silence on Silence: A Critique of Universal Pragmatics,” The Critical Theory Roundtable, The Pennsylvania State University | State College, PA, November 11-13.

2016 “*En Estos Tiempos de La Llorona, An Ethics of Our Time,*” The Roundtable on Latina Feminism, John Carroll University | Cleveland, OH, May 6-7.

2016 “Liberation in the Antistructure: Mestiza Spaces for Subaltern Speech,” Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy (SAAP), 43rd Annual Meeting | Portland, OR, March 3-5.

2015 “Intimate Publics and Ephemerality, Snapchat: A Case Study,” Caribbean Philosophical Association 2015: Shifting the Geography of Reason XII: Technologies of Liberation | Riviera Maya, Quintana Roo, Mexico, June 18-21.

2015 “Intimate Publics and Ephemerality, Snapchat: A Case Study,” Theorizing the Web Conference 2015 | NY, NY, April 17-18.

2015 “The Labor of Listening,” New York Society for Women in Philosophy, SWIPshop: workshops in feminist philosophy, CUNY Graduate Center | NY, NY, February 26.

2014 “Healing La Frontera’s Herida Abierta: Up Against the Wall, a commentary by Emma Velez,” Book Presentation, Edward S. Casey and Mary Watkins, *Up Against the Wall: Re-Imagining the U.S.-Mexico Border* (University of Texas Press, 2014), SUNY Stony Brook University | Stony Brook, NY, October 30.

2014 “Moral Love” through an Ethics of Ambiguity: Cultivating Mestiza Ears to Listen to Subaltern Voices, Caribbean Philosophical Association 2014: Shifting the Geography of Reason XI: Diverse Lineages of Existentialism—Africana, Feminist, and Decolonial | St. Louis, MO, June 20.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Graduate Instructor, The Pennsylvania State University

Graduate Seminars

Fall 2017 Feminism, Intersectionality, Decolonialism: The Work of María Lugones (PHIL/WMNST, co-taught with Nancy Tuana, 20 grad students)

Undergraduate Courses

Summer 2019 Representing Women and Gender in Literature, Art and Popular Cultures

(WMNST, 40 students, online course)
Spring 2019 Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies (WMNST, 60 students)
Fall 2018 Representing Women and Gender in Literature, Art and Popular Cultures (WMNST, 65 students)
Fall 2017 Philosophy, Politics, and Social Theory (PHIL, 35 students)
Spring 2017 Philosophy, Politics, and Social Theory (PHIL, 35 students)

Graduate Teaching Assistant, The Pennsylvania State University

Fall 2016 Philosophy of Love and Sex, Nancy Tuana (led two discussion sections of 35 students)
Fall 2015 Environmental Philosophy, Mark Sentesy

Graduate Teaching Assistant, SUNY Stony Brook University

Spring 2015 Concepts of the Person, Gabrielle Jackson
Fall 2014 Ancient Philosophy, Timothy Hyde
Spring 2014 Politics and Society, Serene Khader
Fall 2013 Existentialism, Timothy Hyde

Teaching Interests

- Critical Philosophy of Race: Beyond the Black/White Binary
- Latin American Philosophy: Complex and Uneven Genealogies
- Re-thinking the Social Contract: The Racial, Sexual, and Colonial Contracts
- Gender and Colonization: Anticolonial, Postcolonial, and Decolonial Feminisms

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:

2016-2019 Research Assistant, Eduardo Mendieta and Amy Allen, *Cambridge Habermas Lexicon* (Cambridge University Press, 2019).
2014 Manuscript Editor, Tim R. Johnston, *Affirming Care: Bergson, Care Ethics, and LGBT Identity* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016).
2014 Research Assistant, Mary Rawlinson
2013 Research Assistant, Serene J. Khader

SERVICE:

Service to the Profession

2019 Graduate Assistant, Philosophy in an Inclusive Key Summer Institute (PIKSI-Rock) | State College, PA, June 17-28
2018 Conference Co-Organizer (with Nancy Tuana), *Toward Decolonial Feminisms: A Conference Inspired by the work of María Lugones* | State College, PA, May 11-12.

- 2017 Conference Organizer, *16th Annual Penn State Women's Studies Graduate Organization Conference: Feminism, Race, and the Anthropocene* (with keynote speakers Whitney Battle-Baptiste, UMASS and Zoe Todd, Carleton College) | State College, PA, February 24-25.
- 2013-2015 SWIPshop Planning Committee, New York Society for Women in Philosophy (NYSWIP)

Departmental/University Service

- 2016-2019 Graduate Student Representative, Philosophy Department Committee for Diversity and Inclusiveness, The Pennsylvania State University
- 2017 Co-Organizer, Philosophy Department Workshop on Microaggressions (led by Dr. Tim Johnston and Dr. Jason Gines), The Pennsylvania State University
- 2016-2017 Treasurer, Women's Studies Graduate Student Organization, The Pennsylvania State University
- 2015 Chair, Department Climate Survey Committee, Philosophy Graduate Student Organization, Stony Brook University
- 2014-2015 President, Philosophy Graduate Student Organization, Stony Brook University
- 2013-2014 Vice President, Philosophy Graduate Student Organization, Stony Brook University

LANGUAGES:

Spanish: Reading, Translation, and Conversational Speaking Facility
 French: Reading and Translation Facility (completed graduate level translation course)
 German: Reading and Translation Facility (completed graduate level translation course)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

American Philosophical Association (APA)
 Caribbean Philosophical Association (CPA)
 National Women's Studies Association (NWSA)
 NY Society for Women in Philosophy (NYSWIP)
 PhiloSOPHIA
 Roundtable for Latina/x Feminism
 Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy (SAAP)
 Society for Mexican American Philosophers (SMAP)
 Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy (SPEP)

COMPLETED GRADUATE COURSES (organized by AOS/AOC):

Feminist Philosophy (AOS)

Spring 2018	Penn State	Latina Feminisms, Experience, and Identity (Mariana Ortega; Auditor)
Spring 2017	Penn State	Critical Geopolitics (Lorraine Dowler)
Fall 2016	Penn State	Feminist Theory (Nancy Tuana)
Fall 2016	Penn State	Feminist Research and Teaching (Lise Nelson)

Summer 2016	Penn State	Africana Philosophy (Kathryn Sophia Belle; formerly Kathryn Gines)
Fall 2015	Penn State	Ethics and the Politics of Violence (Sarah Clark Miller)
Fall 2015	Penn State	Contemporary Philosophy Seminar: Judith Butler & Donna Haraway (Nancy Tuana)
Spring 2015	Stony Brook	Social & Political Philosophy: Sex and Democracy (Anne O'Byrne)
Spring 2015	Stony Brook	Practicing Women's and Gender Studies (Mary Jo Bona)
Spring 2014	Stony Brook	Advance Topics in Women's Studies: Mass Culture and the Event of 'Woman' (Victoria Hesford)
Fall 2013	Stony Brook	Seminar in Analytic Philosophy: Rawls & Critiques from the Margins (Eva Kittay)
Fall 2013	Stony Brook	Feminist Theory (Mary Jo Bona)

Social and Political Philosophy (AOS)

Spring 2017	Penn State	Critical Geopolitics (Lorraine Dowler)
Spring 2017	Penn State	Modern Social Contract Theory (independent study with John Christman)
Fall 2016	Penn State	Decolonizing Philosophy: Chronotologies of Reason (Eduardo Mendieta)
Summer 2016	Penn State	Africana Philosophy (Kathryn Gines)
Spring 2016	Penn State	Political and Social Theory: Freedom and Subjugation (John Christman)
Spring 2016	Penn State	Critical Social Theory: The Frankfurt School (Amy Allen)
Fall 2015	Penn State	Ethics and the Politics of Violence (Sarah Clark Miller)
Spring 2015	Stony Brook	Social & Political Philosophy: Sex and Democracy (Anne O'Byrne)
Fall 2013	Stony Brook	Seminar in Analytic Philosophy: Rawls & Critiques from the Margins (Eva Kittay)
Fall 2013	Stony Brook	Social & Political Philosophy: Marx (Allegra de Laurentiis)

Post-/Decolonial Philosophy (AOS)

Spring 2018	Penn State	Latina Feminisms, Experience, and Identity (Mariana Ortega; Auditor)
Spring 2017	Penn State	Critical Geopolitics (Lorraine Dowler)
Fall 2016	Penn State	Decolonizing Philosophy: Chronotologies of Reason (Eduardo Mendieta)
Summer 2016	Penn State	Africana Philosophy (Kathryn Gines)
Spring 2016	Penn State	Critical Social Theory: The Frankfurt School (Amy Allen)
Fall 2015	Penn State	Ethics and Temporality (Eduardo Mendieta)
Summer 2014	Dialogo Global	Decolonizing Epistemology (Linda Alcoff)
Summer 2014	Dialogo Global	National Sovereignty, Knowledge Production

Summer 2014	Dialogo Global	and Global Transformations (Kwame Nimako)
Summer 2014	Dialogo Global	Introduction to the Decolonial Turn (Nelson Maldonado Torres)
Summer 2014	Dialogo Global	Stuart Hall in Review (Ruth Gilmore)
Critical Theory (AOC)		
Spring 2017	Penn State	German Idealism (Brady Bowman)
Spring 2016	Penn State	Critical Social Theory: The Frankfurt School (Amy Allen)
Fall 2015	Penn State	Ethics and Temporality (Eduardo Mendieta)
Spring 2014	Stony Brook	19 th Century Philosophy: Hegel's Phenomenology of Spirit (Mary Rawlinson)
Spring 2014	Stony Brook	Topics in Contemporary Philosophy: The Linguistic Turn in Hermeneutics and Critical Theory (Lorenzo Simpson)
Spring 2014	Stony Brook	Advance Topics in Women's Studies: Mass Culture and the Event of 'Woman' (Victoria Hesford)
Fall 2013	Stony Brook	Social & Political Philosophy: Marx (Allegra de Laurentiis)
Critical Philosophy of Race (AOC)		
Spring 2018	Penn State	Latina Feminisms, Experience, and Identity (Mariana Ortega; Auditor)
Spring 2017	Penn State	Critical Geopolitics (Lorraine Dowler)
Fall 2016	Penn State	Feminist Theory (Nancy Tuana)
Fall 2016	Penn State	Feminist Research and Teaching (Lise Nelson)
Summer 2016	Penn State	Africana Philosophy (Kathryn Gines)
Fall 2015	Penn State	Ethics and Temporality (Eduardo Mendieta)
Summer 2014	Dialogo Global	Decolonizing Epistemology (Linda Alcoff)
Summer 2014	Dialogo Global	National Sovereignty, Knowledge Production and Global Transformations (Kwame Nimako)
Summer 2014	Dialogo Global	Introduction to the Decolonial Turn (Nelson Maldonado Torres)
Summer 2014	Dialogo Global	Stuart Hall in Review (Ruth Gilmore)
Continental Philosophy (AOC)		
Spring 2017	Penn State	German Idealism (Brady Bowman)
Fall 2015	Penn State	Ethics and Temporality (Eduardo Mendieta)
Fall 2015	Penn State	Contemporary Philosophy Seminar: Judith Butler & Donna Haraway (Nancy Tuana)
Spring 2015	Stony Brook	Social & Political Philosophy: Sex and Democracy (Anne O'Byrne)
Fall 2014	Stony Brook	Philosophical Psychology: Phenomenology of Self and Persons (Donn Welton)
Fall 2014	Stony Brook	Continental Philosophy: Early and Late Derrida (Edward Casey)
Spring 2014	Stony Brook	19th Century Philosophy: Hegel's <i>Phenomenology of Spirit</i> (Mary Rawlinson)

Spring 2014 Stony Brook Topics in Contemporary Philosophy: The
Linguistic Turn in Hermeneutics and Critical Theory
(Lorenzo Simpson)

Other

Spring 2016 Penn State Ancient Philosophy: Aristotle's *Physics* &
Metaphysics (Mark Sentesy)

REFERENCES:

Eduardo Mendieta (dissertation advisor)

Department of Philosophy and School of International Affairs
The Pennsylvania State University
203 Sparks Building
University Park, PA 16802
ezm5325@psu.edu

Nancy Tuana (dissertation advisor)

Department of Philosophy and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies
The Pennsylvania State University
240 Sparks Building
University Park, PA 16802
ntuana@psu.edu

Kathryn Sophia Belle (formerly Kathryn Gines; departmental reader)

Department of Philosophy and Africana Studies
Founding Director of the Collegium of Black Women Philosophers
The Pennsylvania State University
232 Sparks Building
University Park, PA 16802
kathrynbelle@psu.edu