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Syracuse, NY 13210

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Education: Ph.D. in philosophy, Syracuse University, 2011
A.B. in philosophy with honors, Brown University, 1996

Areas of Specialization:

Metaphysics, Philosophy of Race, Philosophy of Religion

Other Areas of Competence:

Social Philosophy, Ethics (theory and applied), Logic, Critical Thinking
History of Philosophy (ancient, Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, early modern)
Epistemology, Political Philosophy
Non-philosophy teaching: First-Year Writing
Interdisciplinary teaching: race, disability, health and the law

Dissertation: “A Realist Metaphysics of Race: A Context-Sensitive, Short-Term Retentionist, Long-Term Revisionist Approach”

Committee: Linda Martín Alcoff, Mark Heller, André Gallois, Ben Bradley, Kris McDaniel

Dissertation Abstract: There are three main metaphysical positions on race. Anti-realists deny that there are races. Natural-kind approaches find sub-groups of *homo sapiens* with scientific importance and call them races. Social-kind views consider races to exist because of contingent social practices. I argue for a social-kind view that recognizes the features used to classify people racially involve biological features. Racial groups would exist without social constructions, since they are just groups of people, but the social constructions make particular group classifications socially important and allow us to name them as races. I also argue that racial classification is highly context-sensitive. We need racial categories to identify problems in how our racial construction is formed, including harmful effects, rather than seeking to eliminate the categories in any direct way, but we should also make efforts to change the conditions that generate those problematic elements, so we can retain only the unproblematic aspects.

Book: *A Realist Metaphysics of Race: A Context-Sensitive, Short-Term Retentionist, Long-Term Revisionist Approach*, Lexington/Rowman & Littlefield, 2015

Scholarly Article:

- “Glasgow’s Anti-Realism: Experimental Philosophy and Thought Experiments,”
Journal of Social Philosophy 44 No.2, Summer 2013, 146-168.

Awards:

Le Moyne College Outstanding Part-Time Faculty Member of the Year, April 2013
Syracuse University Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, April 2003

Syracuse University Summer Research Fellowship, June 1999

Teaching Experience:

COR 100-MB, First-Year Seminar: Race in America (Le Moyne College)
PHL 101, Phil. Foundations of Western Thought (ancient-Descartes, Le Moyne College)
PHI 101, The Examined Life: An Introduction to Philosophy (Onondaga Community College)
PHI 102, Ancient Philosophy (Onondaga Community College)
PHI 103, Critical Thinking (Onondaga Community College)
PHL 104, Early Modern Philosophy (Descartes-Kant, Onondaga Community College)
PHI 107, Theories of Knowledge and Reality (metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of religion, Syracuse University)
PHI 107, Logic (Onondaga Community College)
PHI 108, Ethics (intro to ethical theory, Onondaga Community College)
PHI 109 Philosophy of Religion (Onondaga Community College)
PHL 110 Introduction to Philosophy (human nature, examined life, Le Moyne College)
PHI 191, Ethics and Value Theory (theoretical and applied ethics, Syracuse University)
PHL 192, Introduction to Moral Theory (ethical theory, historical and contemporary, Syracuse University)
PHI 197, Human Nature (ancient-20th century, Syracuse University)
PHL 201, Philosophical Perspectives on the Human Condition (human nature 1650-contemporary, Le Moyne College)
PHL 210, Moral Philosophy (Le Moyne College)
PHL 302, Issues in Ethics (applied ethics, Le Moyne College)
PHL 303, Great Traditions in Ethics (ethical theory, historical and contemporary, Le Moyne College)
PHL 311, Formal Logic (Le Moyne College)
PHI 391, History of Ethics (ancient-20th century, Syracuse University)
PHI 393, Contemporary Ethics (ethical theory, Syracuse University)
PHL 410, Health, Society, and the Law (Le Moyne College)
PHI 493, Contemporary Ethical Issues (applied ethics, Syracuse University)
WRT 101, Critical Writing (Le Moyne College)

I have also taught both ethics and introduction to philosophy as entirely online courses.

Research Interests:

Metaphysics of Racial Classification; Social, Ethical, and Epistemological Implications of Race; Vagueness; Personal Identity; Time and Persistence; Material Constitution; Disability; Problem of Evil; Metaphysics of Gender

Popular Articles/Chapters:

-- "Monday ... Again" in *The X-Files and Philosophy: The Truth is In Here*, ed. Robert Arp (Open Court, 2017)
-- "Disability in Westeros" in *The Ultimate Game of Thrones and Philosophy: You Think or You Die*, ed. Eric J. Silverman and Robert Arp (Open Court, 2016)

- "Becoming Vetinari: Personal Identity on the Discworld" in *Discworld and Philosophy: Reality is Not What It Seems*, ed. Nicolas Michaud (Open Court, 2016)
- "Fate on the Discworld and Roundworld in *Discworld and Philosophy: Reality is Not What It Seems*, ed. Nicolas Michaud (Open Court, 2016)
- "The Golden Man" in *Philip K. Dick and Philosophy*, ed. D.E. Wittkower (Open Court, 2011)
- "It Doesn't Matter What We Do: Whatever Happened Happened" in *The Ultimate Lost and Philosophy*, ed. Sharon Kaye (Blackwell Philosophy and Pop Culture Series, 2010)
- "Destiny in Harry Potter", in *The Ultimate Harry Potter and Philosophy: Hogwarts for Muggles*, ed. Greg Bassham (Blackwell Philosophy and Pop Culture Series, 2010)
- "Mutants and the Metaphysics of Race", in *The X-Men and Philosophy: Astonishing Insight and Uncanny Argument in the X-Verse*, ed. Rebecca Housel and J. Jeremy Wisniewski (Blackwell Philosophy and Pop Culture Series, 2009)
- above two chapters reprinted in *Introducing Philosophy Through Pop Culture: From Socrates to South Park, from House to Hume*, ed. William Irwin and David Kyle Johnson (Wiley/Blackwell, 2010)

Book Reviews:

Gender, Bullying, and Harassment: Strategies to End Sexism and Homophobia in Schools, Elizabeth J. Meyer, Teachers College Press, 2009, in *Men and Masculinities* (December 2011)

God and Time: Four Views, ed. Gregory E. Ganssle, InterVarsity Press, 2001, in *Faith and Philosophy* (October 2003)

Talks and conference presentations:

"Race and Context-Sensitivity,"

American Philosophical Association, Pacific Division, April 2012

"The Ethical Implications of Race Realism: Retentionism, Reverse Fictionalism, or Revisionism?"

Syracuse University Philosophy ABD Workshop, April 2011

"Context-Shifting in a Bundle View of Race,"

Syracuse University Philosophy ABD Workshop, November 2007

"Ethics Without God?" *MissionU*, conference for Christian college students, Providence, RI, February 2004

"Vagueness, Coincident Entities, and Ontology"

Syracuse University Internal Speakers series, Fall 2003

Conference/Talk Comments:

Kora Gould, "Moral Agency and Personal Identity,"

Syracuse University Philosophy ABD Workshop, March 2007

Chris Tillman, "Contextualism is False"

Syracuse University Grad Student Philosophy Conference, February 2004

Mark Moyer, "Should We Swallow Worms or Worm Slices?"

Creighton Club, Philosophical Society of Central New York, Nov 2000

Referee/Review Work: (textbook evaluation) Routledge, Wiley/Blackwell
(journal referee) *Mind*, *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, *Ergo*

Editorial Work: E. MS for Laurence Thomas' portion of L. Thomas and Michael E. Levin, *Sexual Orientation and Human Rights* (1999) Rowman & Littlefield

Other Professional Responsibilities and Service:

Co-founder, philosophy of religion weblog *Prosblogion* (no longer online)
Regular panelist, *Life Fantastic* podcast (topic: disabilities)
Board of Directors, Sanchia Callender, Inc. (disability-related non-profit)

Academic Employment:

Adjunct Assistant Professor, Le Moyne College, August 2011-present
Part-time Instructor, Syracuse University, May 2003-Aug 2011, Fall 2020-present
both continuing education and Philosophy Dept. classes (incl. online)
Adjunct Instructor, Onondaga Community College, January 2011-present
Adjunct Instructor, Le Moyne College, August 2003-August 2011
Teaching associate, Syracuse University, August 2000-May 2003
Fully responsible for syllabi, lectures, assignments, exams, grading
Participation in Syracuse University Future Professoriate Program
Teaching assistant coordinator, Syracuse University, January 1998-May 2000
Led recitation sections, responsible for grading
Oversight of team of 5-6 teaching assistants for class of 350-400 students
Teaching assistant, Fall 1997 Led recitation sections, responsible for grading
Tutor, summers 2001, 2002, 2004 (led study groups, tutored)
Phi 107, Theories of Knowledge and Reality, Phi 171, Critical Thinking,
Phi 191, Ethics and Value Theory, Phi 251, Logic
Rel 101, Religions of the World

Languages: Ancient Greek, Latin

Graduate Courses Taken or Audited(*):

Metaphysics and Philosophy of Religion:

Persistence and Parthood (Ted Sider)
Personal Identity (Dean Zimmerman)
Vagueness (John Hawthorne, Jose Benardete)
Philosophical Theology (William Alston)
David Lewis* (John Hawthorne)
Time and Eternity* (Dean Zimmerman)
Imagination and Possibility (Tamar Szabo Gendler)
Topics in Metaphysics (John Hawthorne)
Metaphysics (Jose Benardete)
Philosophy of Mind (Robert Van Gulick)

History of Philosophy:

Topics in Ancient Philosophy: Metaphysics (John Robertson)
Topics in Ancient Philosophy: Ethics* (John Robertson)
Hellenistic Philosophy (Bonnie Kent)
Medieval Philosophy (John Hawthorne)
Locke* (Nicholas Jolley)
Locke and Leibniz (Jonathan Bennett, William Alston)
Malebranche and Leibniz* (Nicholas Jolley)
Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason** (first half of semester, Fred Beiser)
Frege (Brent Mundy)

Other courses:

Race and Identity (Linda Martín Alcoff)
Contemporary Epistemology (William Alston)
Knowledge* (John Hawthorne)
Philosophy of Language (Ted Sider)
Philosophy of Mathematics (Jose Benardete)
Logic and Language (Mark Brown)
Moral Philosophy (Samuel Gorovitz)
Structure of Science (Brent Mundy)

Philosophical References:

Linda Martín Alcoff, Professor of Philosophy, Hunter College and CUNY Graduate Center, dissertation supervisor
Mark Heller, Professor of Philosophy, Syracuse University
Ben Bradley, Dept. Chair and Professor of Philosophy, Syracuse University
Kris McDaniel, Professor of Philosophy, Notre Dame University

Teaching References:

Mario Saenz, Professor of Philosophy, Le Moyne College – dept. chair 2010-2013
Thomas McKay, Professor of Philosophy, Syracuse University – teaching mentor 2000-2002 and former dept chair
Laurence Thomas, Professor of Philosophy and Political Science, Syracuse University – teaching oversight, 1997-2000